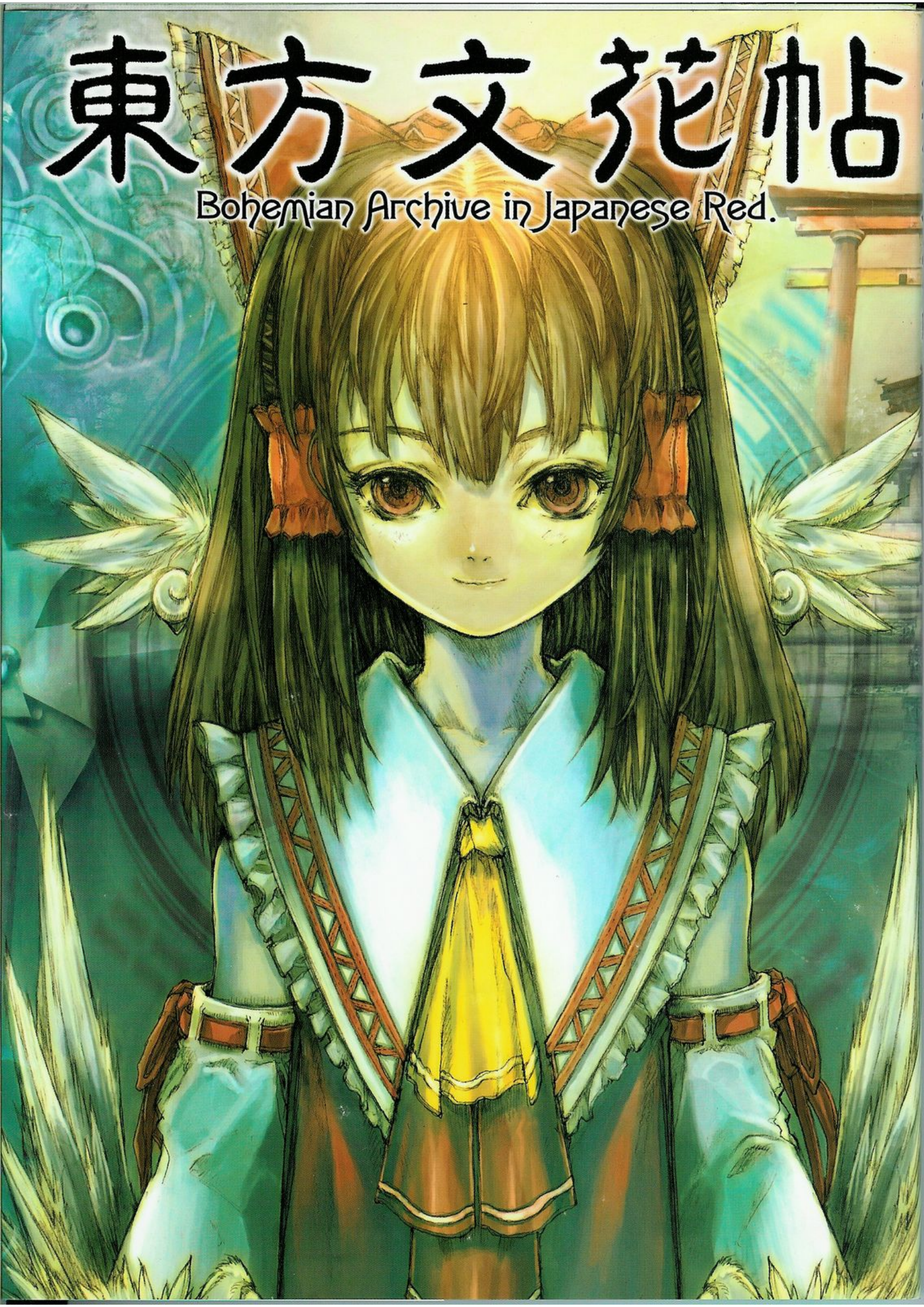


# 東方文花帖

Bohemian Archive in Japanese Red.





とう ほう ぶん か ちょう  
東方文花帖  
Bohemian Archive in Japanese Red

*“Extra of the Wind”*

Story: ZUN

Illustration: Leaf Garden

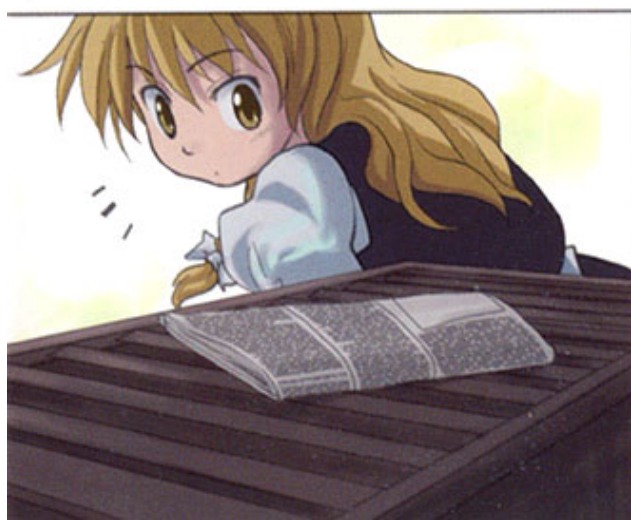
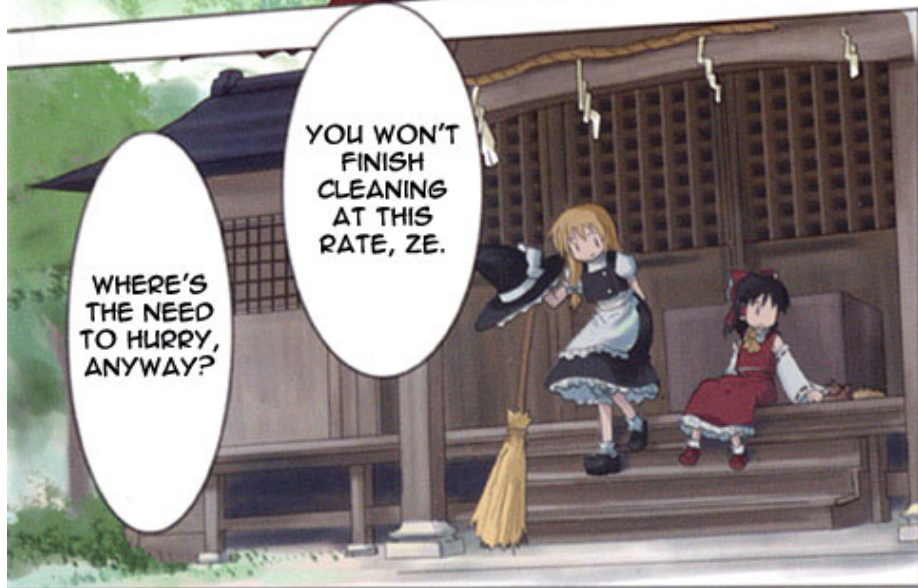
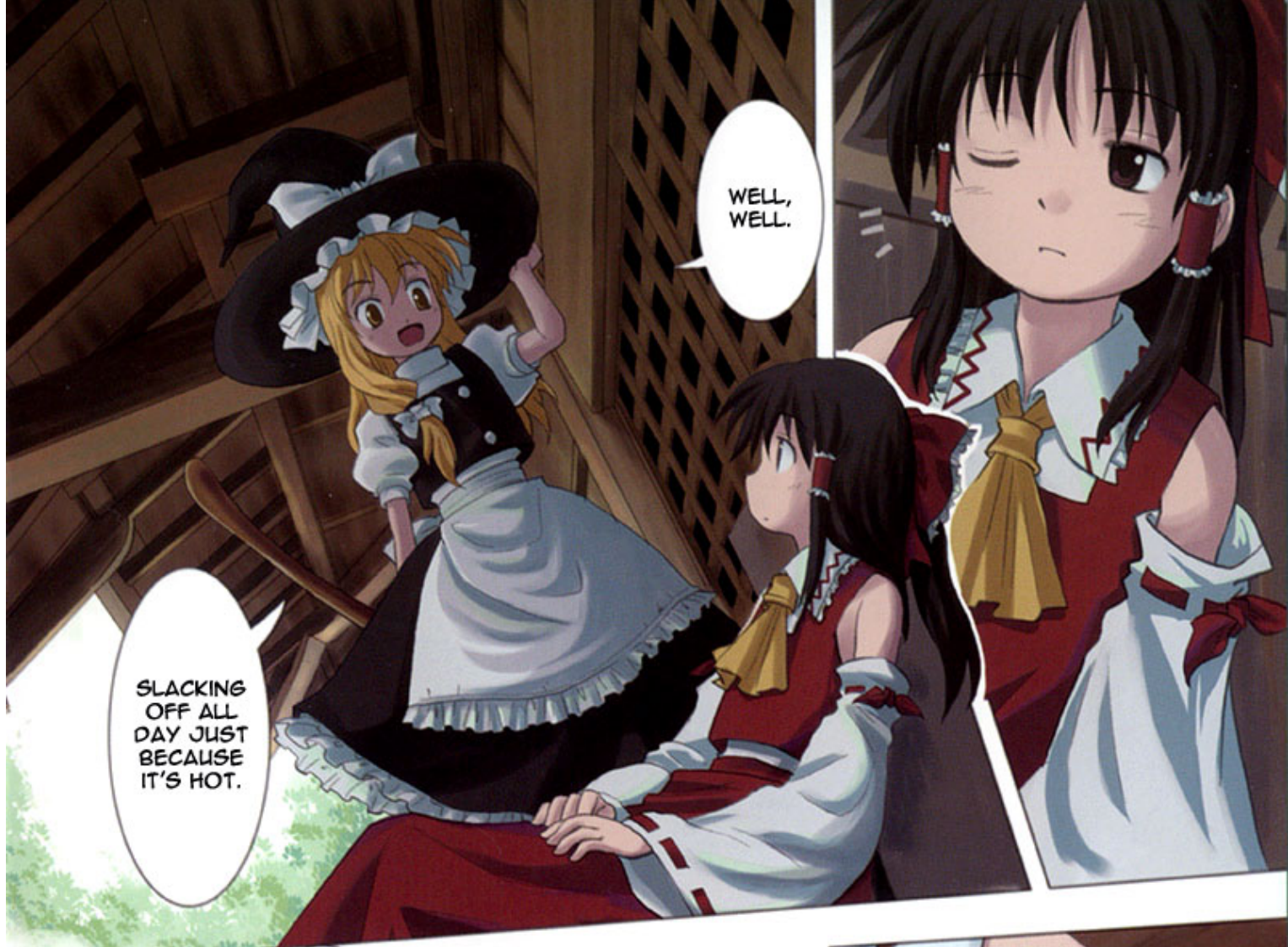
Scans: ChronoReverse

Translation: Cardcaptor

Edit: Akuun











THEY SURE DON'T TAKE IT EASY.

AN EXTRA IS SOMETHING THAT GETS DISTRIBUTED DOOR TO DOOR LIKE A NORMAL NEWS-PAPER?

A CROW WENT AROUND DISTRIBUTING IT A WHILE AGO.

AN EXTRA? WHAT'S THIS?

THEY ARE TAKING IT EASY. THERE'S NO BIG NEWS IN IT EVEN THOUGH IT'S CALLED AN EXTRA.



FAIRIES AND PRIVATE HOUSES REPEATEDLY STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

LET'S SEE...

BE CAREFUL WHEN TRAVELING BY AIR AT THE END OF THE RAINY SEASON ...?

WHAT IS THIS?

IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE THE RAINY SEASON ENDED.

HOW CAN THEY CALL THIS AN EXTRA?





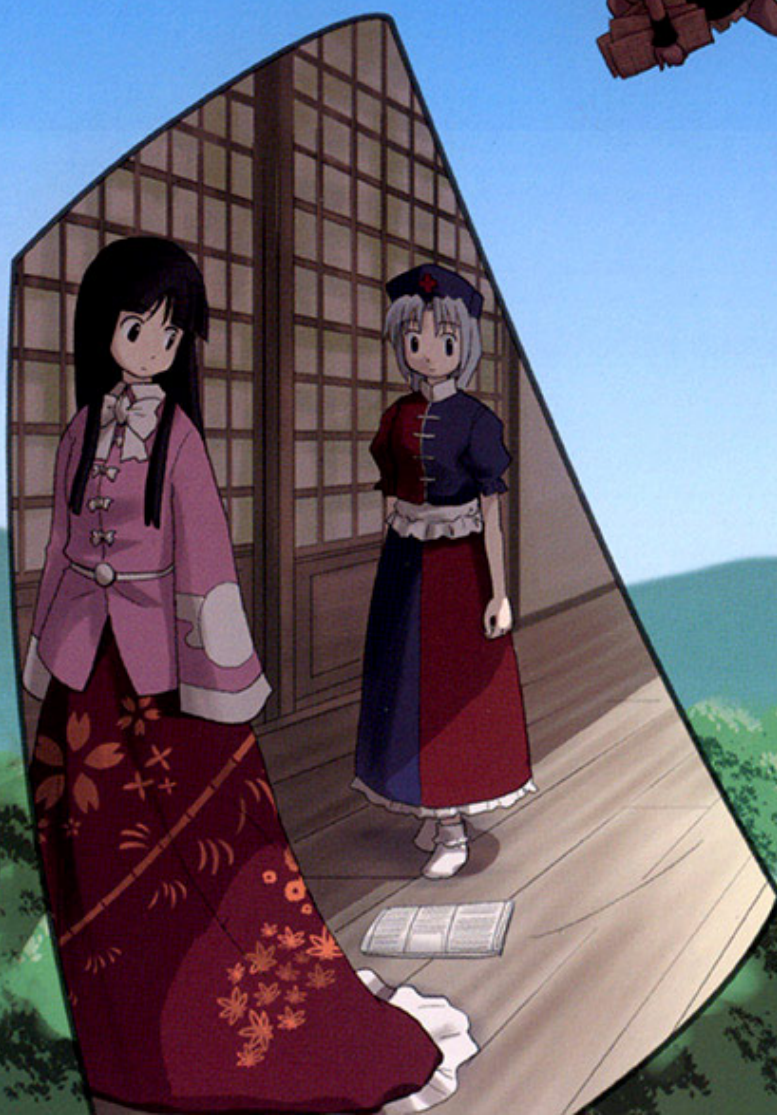




EXTRA  
EDITION OF  
GENSOKYO'S  
FASTEST  
AND MOST  
ACCURATE  
RECORD OF  
REALITY,  
"BUNBUN-  
MARU  
NEWS"!



IF YOU  
DON'T  
READ  
THIS,  
THERE WILL  
BE NO  
TOMOR-  
ROW!








Traditional Gensokyo Reporter

**Shameimeimaru Aya**





ALMOST  
DONE  
WITH THE  
DISTRIBUTION.



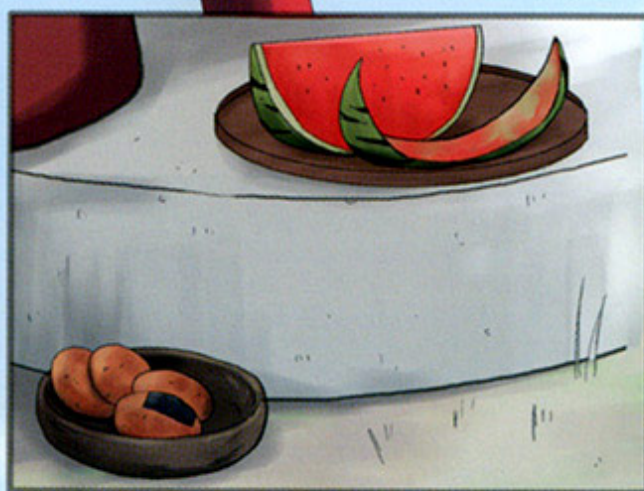
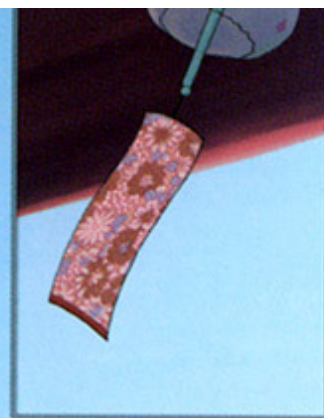
IT WOULD  
BE GREAT IF  
TODAY'S  
EXTRA IS  
USEFUL TO  
THE READERS,  
BUT FOR  
THIS YEAR'S  
COMPETITION...



WELL,  
LET'S FIND  
OUT THE  
IMPACT OF  
THE EXTRA  
LATER.

FOR  
NOW, I  
SHOULD WRITE  
ARTICLES FOR  
THE REGULAR  
PAPER. THE  
STOCK OF  
MATERIAL IS  
GETTING  
PRETTY BIG.









**BIG  
NEWS!**

**A THIEF  
BROKE  
INTO THE  
SCARLET  
DEVIL  
MANSION,  
ZE!**

.....

**YOU  
REALLY  
DO JUST  
SLACK  
OFF ALL  
DAY.**

**TAKE IT  
EASY.**

**AND?**

**THE  
THIEF...?**













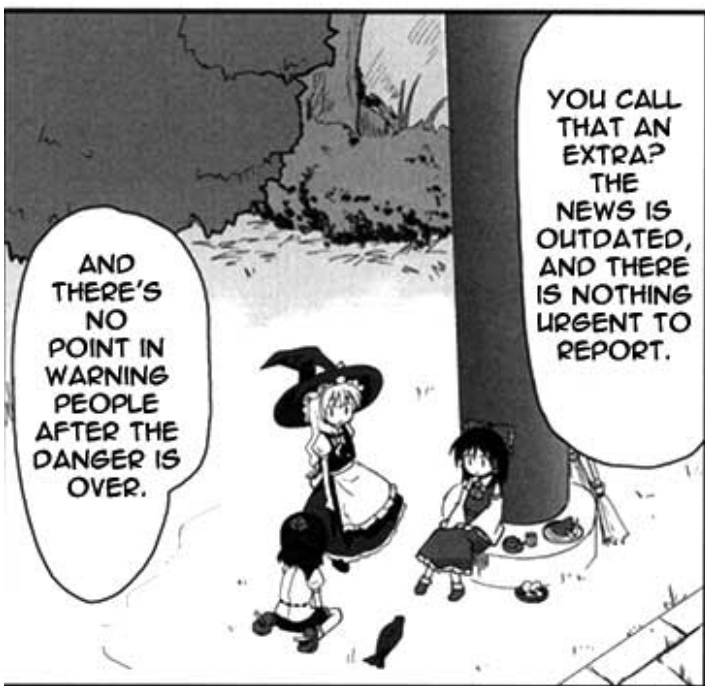
IT'S NEWS-PAPER, NOT NEWS-PRINT.

EXTRA?

AH... YESTERDAY'S NEWS-PRINT, RIGHT?



TODAY, I'M COLLECTING OPINIONS ON THE EXTRA THAT I TEST DISTRIBUTED YESTERDAY.



AND THERE'S NO POINT IN WARNING PEOPLE AFTER THE DANGER IS OVER.

YOU CALL THAT AN EXTRA? THE NEWS IS OUTDATED, AND THERE IS NOTHING URGENT TO REPORT.



IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT YOU PUBLISH WHEN YOU JUST WANT TO PUBLISH.

AN EXTRA IS PUBLISHED WHEN SOMETHING UNCOMMON HAPPENS.



IS THAT SO?


THEN I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT.

THAT IS BECAUSE I JUST WANTED TO PUBLISH AN "EXTRA".










THAT'S  
BECAUSE  
NOBODY  
SAW ME  
WORK SO  
HARD TO  
SOLVE IT.



I CANNOT  
CONFIRM  
WHAT  
HAPPENED IN  
SPRING THIS  
YEAR, SO  
I CANNOT  
MAKE AN  
ARTICLE OUT  
OF THAT.



THAT'S NOT  
IT. I MEAN  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THE TIME  
I DECISIVELY  
SETTLED THE  
"ABNORMAL  
FLOWER  
BLOOMING"  
INCIDENT.



ALL REIMU  
DOES IS  
SLACK  
OFF LIKE  
THIS EVERY  
DAY, ZE.



DON'T  
WORRY,  
IT'S FULL  
OF LIES  
ANYWAY.





THE  
REASON IS  
THAT THERE  
WILL BE A  
NEWSPAPER  
COMPETITION  
AMONG US  
TENGU.



BY THE WAY,  
WHY DID YOU  
SUDDENLY  
PUBLISH AN  
EXTRA EVEN  
THOUGH  
THERE ARE  
NO BIG  
EVENTS TO  
BEGIN WITH?



I ALWAYS  
LOSE, SO  
THIS YEAR  
I HAVE  
TO WIN...

You'll  
Poking me!!

THE  
WINNER IS  
JUDGED BY  
THE NUMBER  
OF COPIES  
PRINTED.  
IT'S AN  
ANNUAL  
TRADITION.



COMPETITION? LIKE  
SMASHING  
TENGU  
NOSES  
WITH  
ROLLED-UP  
NEWSPA-  
PERS?

Smash!



...



SO, I  
PUBLISHED  
THE  
EXTRA TO  
PROMOTE  
THE  
NEWSPA-  
PER.





AN EXTRA IS A  
SPECIAL ISSUE  
THAT MAKES  
PEOPLE READ  
A NEWSPAPER  
THAT THEY  
NORMALLY  
WOULDN'T  
READ, RIGHT?



I KIND OF  
AGREE,  
BUT...

...I SORT  
OF AGREE,  
BUT...

YOU'RE  
WRONG, ZE.

END



# Bohemian Archive in Japanese Red.

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Writer: ZUN.  
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<sup>1</sup><https://en.touhouwiki.net/wiki/Touhou.Wiki>. Special thanks to Rukaroa Itsumi for translating most of the text.



*Season 118, 4th of Hazuki*<sup>2</sup>

## **In a String of Successive Midsummer Burglaries, the Culprit was Photographed in the Act**

**That makes the 5th time this month, said an exasperated resident**



Illustration by Genji Asai

On the day of ○ the ○th at about half past noon, another burglary occurred at the Scarlet Devil Mansion, located by the edge of the lake. Ever since the Scarlet Mist Incident<sup>3</sup> last month, there has been a surprising number of successive break-ins; not even a month has elapsed since the incident and yet more than ten break-ins have occurred.

Our newspaper, as a result of a three-day stakeout, managed to obtain photographs of a burglary in progress. Regrettably, the crime could not be stopped, because the journalist in charge was completely devoted to photography.

The criminal appears to be Marisa Kirisame (human), who lives in an unkempt house in the Forest of Magic. When the victims of these crimes, the residents of the mansion, were questioned, they were evasive in their reply: “But we already know who the culprit is.” It wouldn’t be unreasonable to think that there’s some relationship between this and the earlier Scarlet Mist Incident.

The crime was very simple: after casually sneaking in through the back entrance, the criminal acted as if she owned the place, and walked about inside the mansion. She then left with whatever books she felt like taking. It’s hard to believe that the palatial Scarlet Devil Mansion would ever be completely unoccupied. I couldn’t help thinking that they must have slackened their security to allow these thefts to happen while surely somebody was present. In that case, since the mansion wasn’t

<sup>2</sup>About August 31st, 2003

<sup>3</sup>This summer, a scarlet mist temporarily engulfed Gensokyo, blocking all sunlight. The details are uncertain, but it is known that last month, the incident was resolved by a human and the strong sunlight of summer was restored.



empty, it might not be accurate to call it a burglary. However, it seemed to be neither mugging nor swindling, so it seems to be the most appropriate name. For that reason, this article has settled on the term burglary.

According to the resident who was robbed, the criminal left the following words:

“Me, burglar? That’s just mean. Just ’cause I snuck in didn’t mean I stole anything. My life is way shorter than yours anyway, so can’t you just take back everything after I kick the bucket? I’m just borrowing until then. It should be good for the stuff I’m taking that way, too.”

The contents of the excerpt are very human-like and childish, but it is more surprising that the culprit and the residents regularly converse.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

\* \* \*

**Marisa:** What is this third-rate rag?

**Aya:** It’s the “Bunbunmaru Newspaper”, reporting the most wonderful information with the fastest speed in Gensokyo. I can’t believe there’s anyone who hasn’t heard of it.

**Marisa:** Yep, third-rate. The contents are just awful. What kinda idiot would write stuff like this?

**Aya:** Sometimes overly accurate information is criticized.

**Marisa:** Yer the idiot who wrote this, aren’tcha?

**Aya:** Even if I am criticized, I shall not stop writing.

**Marisa:** There’s nothin’ more annoying than an active idiot. ‘Sides, you said it’s the fastest in Gensokyo, but when did this story here happen?

**Aya:** Since it was around the same time as the Scarlet Mist Incident... I guess it’s only 20 years ago? Or maybe it was 12?



Illustration by Masato Takashina



### *Marisa Kirisame*

One of the protagonists of the Touhou series, and an ordinary magician. She has an obsession with collecting things.

*Appearances:* Embodiment of Scarlet Devil, Perfect Cherry Blossom, Immaterial and Missing Power, Imperishable Night, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

**Marisa:** It was two years ago. Yer internal clock is what's fast here. What's the point in writin' 'bout ancient history?

**Aya:** This newspaper itself was published two years ago. You saw my camera and said, "I wanna see an article with my picture in it." That's why I found it for you.

**Marisa:** Ah, guess that does sound like me, all right. Don't really see many workin' cameras in Gensokyo... Hey, waitaminit! You wrote an article about me without askin' permission, and you didn't tell me about it fer two years?

**Aya:** My duty is to report the true form of Gensokyo.

**Marisa:** Yer sure one sly crow, huh. Wonder where you've been hidin'...

**Aya:** We tengu have always been watching all of Gensokyo from the sky and we can hear gossip on the wind. No matter where you commit a crime, you can't keep it a secret!

**Marisa:** You mean you tengu have super-powered eyes and ears, and nothin' better to do. Can ya smell as well as dogs?

**Aya:** No comment.

**Marisa:** Come to think of it, there was a rumor that when we have a feast outside fulla good food and drink, your friends will come out of nowhere and join in. So yeah, about as good as dogs?

**Aya:** That's a baseless rumor. You shouldn't spread rumors like that!

**Marisa:** Oh, ya don't say? Still, considerin' the article hasn't been criticized for two years, it don't look like ya got too many subscribers.

**Aya:** I've got to popularize my newspaper more.

**Marisa:** I think your paper's quality matches its popularity. By the way, I heard I could get sake, detergent and amulets by readin' a newspaper in the outside world. How about yours?

**Aya:** No, you cannot.

**Marisa:** I think at least sake would be good.

**Aya:** I said no. The "Bunbunmaru Newspaper" gives top priority to its contents.

**Marisa:** Too bad the articles aren't that good. Still, I'll take this one, since it's a pretty good shot of me.



**Aya:** No, this one is for my archives! I can't just give it away!

**Marisa:** I'm just borrowin' it 'til I kick the bucket.

**Aya:** You really seem like a human who'll live for a long time.



*Season 119, 3rd of Hazuki* <sup>4</sup>

## Treasure Hunter Races the Night

**A pipe, a spinning top and a snapping turtle... Why did she steal such strange things?**



Illustration by alphes

At dawn on ○ the ○th, a human snuck into several places and collected various strange objects, as revealed by a report from a victim. The criminal snuck into the victim's house and tried to steal a tool called the Hakkerō, which was the victim's treasured possession. Fortunately, the victim hadn't fallen asleep yet, so the theft was foiled.

The criminal was Sakuya Iza-yoi (human), the head maid of the Scarlet Devil Mansion which stands on the edge of the lake.

When the victim caught her, she had several odd things in her possession, so the victim followed her to the Scarlet Devil Mansion, suspecting was amiss. The criminal made the excuse below:

"These items are for a spell to go to the moon. The mistress insisted that she wanted to go there before dawn, so I gathered the materials required for it. I would have returned everything when the sun rose."

The day this happened, there was an incident that extended the length of the night to be longer than usual, which caused a rash of unusual occurrences. The criminal also seemed slightly confused and appeared to not fully understand her words.

"A pipe is a substitute for a rocket, a spinning top is for a gyroscope and the blood of a snapping turtle works as a liquid fuel. It certainly looks similiar, does it not? Of course, the Hakkerō is a rocket engine... However, I really have no idea what 'Armstrong' meant."

The criminal is a sensible and reputable maid among the humans in Gensokyo, so her unusual behavior was beyond conspicuous that day. Yet, she has a habit of gathering unusual

---

<sup>4</sup>About September 16th, 2004



items like bamboo flowers, blue diamonds and the like. I think that led her to commit this strange crime.

The victim, Marisa Kirisame (human), made the following comment about the incident:

“Her takin’ whatever she wants gets on my nerves. She said she’d give it back later, but she was obviously lyin’.”

This time, the Hakkerō was returned safely, so the victim didn’t pursue further. The criminal maid and the residents of the Scarlet Devil Mansion also declined to comment. That’s why their motivation and purpose are, in the end, uncertain.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

## Illusionary Music

Whenever you see a picture of delicious-looking food, you can almost smell and taste it as well. As the sense of smell and the sense of taste are imagined by the mind, they are both true and false.

Thinking about it this way, music is more than just something that comes from sound. If music is something that can shape a world, by contrast, it is something that can also recall memories. When you talk about music, it is absolutely essential to talk about these senses as well. The illusion that there are none who never get the wrong impression is just that, an illusion.

In this article, I have written whatever I can remember about the illusions I saw when I composed these songs. However, my inability to write well about my older days is also just an illusion.

*(Hakurei Kannushi)*

\* \* \*

**Aya:** It has already been more than half a year. May I please ask you about the truth behind this incident?

**Sakuya:** Ah, may I have your name please?

**Aya:** Please don’t feign ignorance. I suppose you’re involved not only in this, but the Eternal Night incident<sup>5</sup> as well.

<sup>5</sup>Note from Shameimaru: The incident where dawn would not break, and the movement of the moon had completely stopped. The youkai easily influenced by the moon as well as the humans who sleep at night were quite confused. Of all the recent incidents, it was the most



Illustration by Masato Takashina

### *Sakuya Izayoi*

A human working as the head maid at the Scarlet Devil Mansion. Has the ability to manipulate time.

*Appearances:* Embodiment of Scarlet Devil, Perfect Cherry Blossom, Imperishable Night, Immaterial and Missing Power, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

**Sakuya:** Yes, I can stop time, but not the night.

**Aya:** But why did you collect all those strange things?

**Sakuya:** Those were Milady's orders. I cannot talk about the details. Please leave the premises.

**Aya:** Where is your mistress? I have some questions to ask her.

**Sakuya:** The lady doesn't remember such trivial matters. It would be a fruitless effort to ask her.

**Aya:** I guess that's that. Speaking of which, do you really not remember anything at all?

**Sakuya:** I do not remember. Have you not heard enough?

**Patchouli:** Those were items needed for the magic spell to reach the moon.

**Sakuya:** Ah, Lady Patchouli. I shall prepare the tea at once.

**Patchouli:** It's already tea time and yet you haven't brought

me tea, so I came to check.

**Aya:** Wait, a magic spell to reach the moon... You're going to use those items to go to the moon?

**Patchouli:** Who're you?

**Aya:** I'm a newspaper reporter, and I seek only the truth. So how did it go? Did you go to the moon?

**Patchouli:** In the end, we failed. The magic of the outside world is too complex. It would be futile unless we concentrated all of the powers in Gensokyo. But what Sakuya ended up bringing me was not liquid fuel, but the message of the turtle, which I understood instantly.

**Sakuya:** ... I've put something unusual in today's tea.

---

perilous. At the moment, the cause and offender are both unknown. In the end, the moon suddenly disappeared and morning came. Several denizens stick to unconfirmed information that the resolution started with the Hakurei shrine maiden and Sakuya Izayoi, but the entirety of the incident remains in the rumor mill.



**Aya:** The turtle's message? You mean like the proverb "a difference like that between a snapping turtle and the moon"?

**Patchouli:** Do you understand the meaning of that proverb at all? It doesn't really mean "things that are similar looking but can't be compared." It means illusions and reality, the palpable and the abstract. So as soon as she showed me all that was needed, I knew we couldn't go to the moon.

**Sakuya:** We will be having tea time now. Will you be joining us as well, Miss Aya? I believe this conversation will take some time, so you are welcome to stay.

*Season 120, 1st of Shimotsuki* <sup>6</sup>

## Eientei Hosts Lunar Capital Expo

**Lunar rovers, moon rabbit mochi-pounding show, etc.**



Illustration by Genji Asai

From this month on, the “Lunar Capital Expo” is being held at Eientei to share knowledge about the moon. Current exhibits include: moon rocks, the flag the humans planted on the moon, and other relics that represent the peak of moon civilization. A show demonstrating the traditional methods moon rabbits use to pound mochi was also being planned. From the first day, a huge crowd of guests have come to visit, including humans and youkai that have a high level of

interest in the moon, with many repeat visitors.

The organizer for this event, Kaguya Houraisan ([self-proclaimed] human) explains its intended purpose.

“Here at home, I have many items related to the moon. For some reason, I felt I needed to keep them to myself at first, but... Now, I don’t mind anymore and I wish for everyone to come pay to see them, since it would be a waste to just hide them away. If I am able to instill even a little bit of interest in the moon through this expo I will be just filled with elation.”

One of the showpieces is the the Moon History Building, where you can learn about the previously unknown history of the Lunar Capital alongside the fascinating tools and vehicles from back then. There is also an old cart that would fly in the sky despite being pulled by oxen, kimono that continue to shine even now, and a lunar rover that that can travel over any sort of lunar terrain. It’s one of the charms of the Lunar Capital Expo that you can’t tell exactly how genuine the exhibits are.

And starting from today, they are holding a moon rabbit mochi-pounding show. Here, all the participants are given mochi pounded by the moon rabbit. Two hours since the show started, the queue for the show already resembles a long snake.

<sup>6</sup>About December 2nd, 2005



A (self-proclaimed) rabbit from the moon, Reisen Udongein Inaba (rabbit), said this when she saw the line:

“It doesn’t matter who pounds it, mochi still tastes the same. Just let me take a little break. . . I told them this plan wouldn’t work, since I’m the only moon rabbit here. . .”

If it becomes too disorderly due to the popularity, they may have a different event for tomorrow. On the other hand, if they do plan an exciting new event, it may help keep visitors from getting bored. The Lunar Capital Expo is like a fantastic virtual tour of the moon. Before winter comes, why not come over and see it?

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

\* \* \*

## Illusionary Music

### Shanghai Teahouse ~ Chinese Tea

Song from Embodiment of Scarlet Devil, Changeability of Strange Dream

I went through a lot of distress to make this song give off an energetic, refreshing feeling, unlike most other shooting game songs which tend to be serious and dark. Shooting games have a number of cool, pop, and dance music-styled songs in them, but there are is a surprising lack of cheery songs.

This song resembles a fantastic, wide-open eastern sky, just like a hallucination of seeing paradise right before you. By the way, this song is titled Shanghai Teahouse because when I first starting making Embodiment of Scarlet Devil, it was titled Touhou Kouchakan (Teahouse). This song made such an impression on me, that I used the game’s title as the song’s name too. However, the game’s title ended up not matching the story, so I changed it.

\* \* \*

**Aya:** The Lunar Capital Expo ended with great success, but what did you think of it?



Illustration by Tateha

been seen before on display. How did you get a hold of all of them?

### *Kaguya Houraisan*

Princess of the moon that lives in hiding on Earth due to the crime she has committed. In order to avoid contact with the Lunar Emissaries, she made Eirin Yagokoro hide the full moon, but...

*Appearances:* Imperishable Night

**Kaguya:** It went so well, I wouldn't mind having it every year.

**Aya:** Since the rabbit's mochi was so extremely delicious, I'd like to write a review of it next time, seeing as the article on the expo was well received.

**Kaguya:** Well, we haven't decided if we're going to hold another one, but if we do it, I'll let you know.

**Aya:** Anyway, you had many strange things that have never been seen before on display. How did you get a hold of all of them?

**Kaguya:** I just all of a sudden remember that I have them. My house is full of ancient things that haven't even been touched since the time when I last saw them.

**Aya:** So how long ago would that be?

**Kaguya:** Very, very long ago.

**Aya:** Let's see...you said these were all items from the

moon, but they don't look that out-of-the-ordinary to me...

**Kaguya:** Oh, are you saying that I was deceiving people?

**Aya:** Well, that's how exhibitions usually go. These kinds of events are good times to use deceit and trickery.

**Kaguya:** There are a lot of people like that these days. They just have to see through the cheating with your own cheating to enjoy the fabrication. A story is a story. But if there are unbelievable truths mixed in with the lies, would they still see through it?

**Aya:** In certain situations, you can.

**Kaguya:** Well, then, what is your honest opinion of the expo?

**Aya:** Well, I can't say for sure, but there seemed to be some fake items mixed in.

**Kaguya:** I see, it looks like you suspect everything unless you see it with your own eyes. You seem like the kind of person



who doesn't believe that humans went to the moon, or thinks the Earth is flat.

**Aya:** That's a cruel way of wording it.

**Kaguya:** Regarding the Lunarians descending to the surface, does it matter if it really happened?

**Aya:** To begin, the part where I felt was kind of fake wasn't that... or maybe it was?

**Kaguya:** Hmm, it would be nice if it were.

**Aya:** Let's leave that topic aside, why do you have so many things that relate to the moon?

**Kaguya:** Good question...

**Aya:** What was on exhibit at the Lunar Capital Expo is about average among others with similar tastes for the fantastic.

**Kaguya:** Yes, that is true. A taste for the fantastic has been part of my lineage for a very long time.

**Aya:** However I think of it, nobody would even think of collecting such strange things. Normal people, that is.

**Kaguya:** Really? There were several times where we were almost robbed during the exhibition, you know? Though our rabbit security force prevented that from happening.

**Aya:** Those with fantastic tastes are everywhere...

**Kaguya:** It's because Earth is like a place where the curious gather.

*Season 119, 1st of Shiwasu* <sup>7</sup>

## A New Dream Medicine for Modern Gensokyo

Good news for the stressed contemporary youkai



Illustration by alphas

Gensokyo's master of medicine, Eirin Yagokoro ([self-proclaimed] human) has developed a new dream medicine for modern troubled people that lets one "enjoy sweet dreams".

The name of this new drug is Butterfly Dream Pill. It takes its name from the dream it induces, where one becomes a butterfly and enjoys oneself. A few doses of the red pill before bed will prevent nightmares and create an enjoyable dream for a good night's sleep. Yagokoro explains

the specifics of what led to the development of this medicine:

"See, in Gensokyo, everyone are either youkai or demons or ghosts or such, so they're all fit and robust. There isn't really much of a demand for medicine for physical illnesses. These kind of beings are comprised mostly of spirit. Therefore, if they need any sort of care it would be for their mentality. The origin of the dream medicine was sparked by this realization."

The Dream World is another self, says Yagokoro. If the dream is too enjoyable, there's a chance that the real world and the Dream World may switch places, so one must be careful of overdosing.

"The medicine itself has existed since ancient times. In the past, there were many humans who took the medicine and could not return from the Dream World. In this new formula, I've weakened the potency and reduced the side effects."

However, there are people who say that good things happen in nightmares as well. For those people who enjoy a little thrill in their dreams, the 'Butterfly Dream Pill Nightmare Type' is also available. This one is a black pill, and when taken, causes nightmares to occur.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

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<sup>7</sup>About January 10th, 2005



\* \* \*

**Aya:** It's been a while. How are the Butterfly Dream Pill sales going?

**Eirin:** Just a little here and there. This minor newspaper doesn't seem to have much exposure.

**Aya:** I'm trying my best to improve that.

**Eirin:** In which areas is this newspaper distributed?

**Aya:** Most of those who want the latest news in Gensokyo the fastest are reading it.

**Eirin:** Gensokyo is full of those who don't care what happens in the world as long as their personal surroundings are fine. Exactly where would there be anyone who needs information enough to get a newspaper?

**Aya:** ... Mostly fellow tengu.

**Eirin:** So it's like a school newspaper.

**Aya:** There are other readers. For example, Kourindou's owner is a loyal subscriber.

**Eirin:** He's not the target audience for Butterfly Dream Pills. I doubt he's worried about nightmares.

**Aya:** By the way, what kind of people buy Butterfly Dream Pills?

**Eirin:** I can't release personal information for the sake of privacy.

**Aya:** I don't think who bought what is really personal information.

**Eirin:** That might be so. Since the purchase and selling of things is a system humans established, prevention of the flow of information reduces the efficiency of the system. Without information, a healthy market isn't possible, and shady businesses can get away with cheating. In the first place, the reason



Illustration by Tateha

### *Eirin Yagokoro*

A former resident of the moon in the service of Kaguya. A genius apothecary, she is even able to concoct the 'Hourai Elixir' which grants the user eternal youth. For some reason, she hid the real full moon and replaced it with a fake not-so-full one.

*Appearances:* Imperishable Night, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

merchants say “I won’t leak your information” is because it’s just another form of advertisement, to appeal to their customers. I’m guessing what you’re trying to say that unless information is more open, the only ones making a profit will benefit, yet they do not realize in doing so, the whole system will collapse eventually, right?

**Aya:** Well, no, I didn’t say that much. But I do agree that information shouldn’t be hidden.

**Eirin:** Like how in the past, saying “Dat ting? Da lady o’er der bought ’em all jest now, don’cha know.” and making the whereabouts of the products as clear as day, they may have been hoping for a possible economical development.

**Aya:** Why the accent? But really, let’s get back on track. You don’t seem like you want to tell me about your customers, after all.

**Eirin:** There’s the puppeteer from the forest, for one.

**Aya:** I’ve tried the Butterfly Dream Pill myself, but I don’t really understand the effect.

**Eirin:** Huh? Is that true?

**Aya:** I did dream of becoming a butterfly flying gracefully through the air, but whether that’s an enjoyable dream or not is...

**Eirin:** You seem to be carefree, after all. You weren’t having any problems with your dreams in the first place, right? You’re not mentally exhausted enough to need therapy.

**Aya:** That’s also true, but... I guess what I mean to say is there wasn’t any sense of speed. I haven’t flown that slowly since my feathers grew.

**Eirin:** So that’s what you meant. Well then, for you, please give the Nightmare Type a try. It’s so fast it might even be enjoyable.



## Large Number of Straw Effigies Found in Forest Behind Shrine

### The still-living tradition and the artisan

On ○ the ○th, a great quantity of human-shaped dolls made from straw were found nailed to trees behind the shrine. The act of affixing human-shaped dolls to trees where others can't see them is an ancient ritual. It was a surprise to see this still being practiced in modern times. However, calling them mere dolls is not an accurate depiction of their craftsmanship. They were practically works of art.

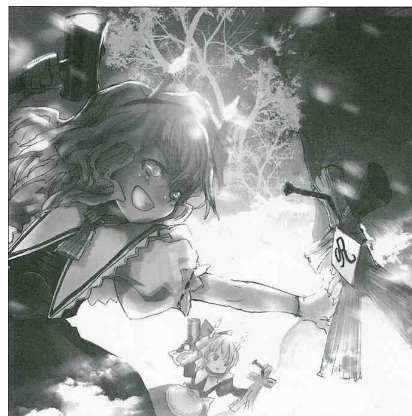


Illustration by Genji Asai

I wanted to learn more about the craftsman bringing this ancient tradition into the present. Since I first had to ascertain their identity, I conducted a stakeout over the area behind the shrine. After three days, the doll maker Alice Margatroid (magician) finally appeared. Margatroid was happy to give me a brief statement despite her surprise.

“These straw effigies are a type of doll. You can't cut any corners while making them. So, when do you think their finest moment is? It goes without saying that it's when they're nailed to a tree. That's why I secretly come here to put them up.”

The artisan began affixing the figures to the trees using nails. This time, I tried to ask why she decided to use such relatively minor traditional art form such as straw figures.

“Obviously, because they say if you make one according to certain rules, you can place a curse on someone's soul. I believe that led to the creation of the doll. People ask why dolls are in the form of humans. I believe it's because it allows for a mystical connection to a subject. If you pierce the effigy with a nail, the subject will feel pain as well. If I can understand this dynamic better, I believe I can come a step closer to my goal of creating an independently moving doll. That's why I'm creating

<sup>8</sup>About July 19th, 2004

these straw figures. Oh, it's not like I hold a grudge against anyone, honestly."

And so the artist began hammering the dolls again. Though she said it was only for research, she returned to her performance so vigorously and with such a terrifying expression that I decided not to bother her any further and ended my questioning.

Traditional crafts such as this are lost as the ages pass. The only ones who can preserve them are not the humans, who try to hide them, but youkai. This is because it's easier for youkai, who often live alone for long periods of time, to leave remnants of the past as they were in olden days than it is for the humans, whose society can change in the blink of an eye. To all youkai living today, perhaps it would be best not only to keep an eye on the future, but to occasionally stop and turn to examine the past.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

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## Illusionary Music

### Forest of Dolls

Song from Dolls in Pseudo Paradise

This song creates the sensation of re-discovering yourself and showing off how you've changed. The intro represents your new-found refinement that would suit the lingering scent of tobacco, but when you get to the main part you've pretty much gone back your old self.

I can remember writing that I wanted to make a cool song this time. I think if I tried redoing this song, it would come out really great, but that would be too much of a pain.

This image gives me a vision of a town where rain is quietly falling. In fact, this is a song that lets me imagine the existence of humans, which is rare. Even the title kind of makes it feel like an old, ruined human village. Well, I guess it would depend on the "self" in question. . .

\* \* \*



**Alice:** Oh, no. You saw me?

**Aya:** I did, and I even interviewed you.

**Alice:** It really won't work if I'm seen nailing the dolls to the trees. And I went to all that work picking just the right place and time.

**Aya:** I had been hiding for three days.

**Alice:** So that's why the effects were so weak...

**Aya:** The... effects?

**Alice:** Oh, nothing. So, what did you come for today?

**Aya:** There were some things I didn't have the chance to ask you, so I thought I'd come and write an article about your workshop while I was at it. I'd really appreciate it.

**Alice:** My workshop? Well, I suppose. I've been meaning to do some cleaning, so be careful on your way in.

**Aya:** ... You certainly have a lot of dolls. Did you make them all yourself?

**Alice:** Well, not all of them, I think, but most of them are my work.

**Aya:** I think I asked you something similar the other day, but the dolls you have here look much more like your subjects than the straw ones, don't they?

**Alice:** Well, it's not just about how close the likeness is to the original. For example, if I made a doll of you and did something to it, then I've just done something to a doll, right? But what if it was to a piece of paper with your name on it? It's indirect, but doesn't that signify you, instead?

**Aya:** I see, so in other words, when you use straw dolls, it's like you're not pounding nails into the dolls, but into the person the dolls represent.

**Alice:** Well, a piece of paper with somebody's name on it isn't as useful as if you've got a bit of their hair, or something



Illustration by Touya

### *Alice Margatroid*

Though she doesn't look any different from a human, since she is a member of the race of magicians, she is not human. As she is an avid collector like Marisa, a large number of dolls and other magic items are scattered throughout her house.

*Appearances:* Perfect Cherry Blossom, Immaterial and Missing Power, Imperishable Night

like that. But you know, it's really not like I'm holding a grudge against anyone.

**Aya:** Just who were those dolls of?

**Alice:** Let's move onto the next question.

**Aya:** Okay, okay, I understand, so please put down that hammer and those nails.

**Alice:** So, where were we?

**Aya:** W-Well, let's see... Can you please tell us about your stated goal about an independently moving doll?

**Alice:** I'm sure I've seen something like that, a long time ago. An independently moving and thinking doll. I've poured my soul into making one, but I've never been successful. I mean, it's easy enough to make a doll that will do something if I command it to, but beyond that... there's just so much more I need to learn.

**Aya:** Have you really seen such a thing as a doll that thinks and moves on its own?

**Alice:** Who made it, and how? It certainly appeared to be moving by its own devices. In any case, I'll have to continue my research until I succeed. It looks like it'll be a long road.

**Aya:** Thank you for your time and cooperation.



## Spring-Summoning Ritual Held to Counter Prolonged Cold Wave

### Similar to an incantation to drive away the cold

Currently in the month of ○, due to the temperature being significantly lower than the average at this time of year, the days of extremely cold weather continue.

In this snow storm, traces of something believed to resemble a ritual have been spotted. A magic specialist says this is a ritual to summon spring.

In a spring-summoning ritual, acting as if spring has come creates an incantation that invites spring to come in actuality. The specifics aren't known, but signs of a person related to the cold wave being assaulted were found, which may or may not be related to this ritual.

The victim of the assault was a youkai of winter, Letty Whiterock (youkai). Judging from the scene of the scuffle, she was completely beaten. Perhaps the ones who started this fight felt it was a more reliable method than the spring-summoning ceremony. After she recovered from being buried in the snow, she spoke critically of the event.

"Summoning spring? I don't know what that is, but it was a human who attacked me, despite their fear of youkai. I was just flying around, enjoying the long winter. Blizzards are an uncommon occurrence, so you'd think they would be more eager to enjoy it."



Illustration by Chiha Ayami

### From page:

6 — Ice Fishing Rising in Popularily With the Extended Winter  
 31 — Ice Huts Appearing All Over Gensokyo, Brewing Sake  
 32 — Caution! Contagious Bird Flu Spreading Among Crows

<sup>9</sup>About June 18th, 2004

The youkai who was attacked for her perceived connection to the cold wave did not agree with the idea of a spring-summoning ritual. Most likely, the youkai celebrating the snow storm passed by the human-centered ritual or a place that was irritated by the cold, and then impulsively brought attention to herself.

However, the spring-summoning ritual is not complete once winter has been driven off. Specialists say that after winter is driven away, there must be a ceremony to welcome spring. For the spring-welcoming ceremony, one makes things that look like cherry petals and then scatter them, making a cherry blossom blizzard, for example. It's possible that the spring-summoning ritual will continue until spring comes.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

\* \* \*



Illustration by Touya

**Aya:** Spring still hasn't arrived, huh?

**Letty:** This year has been so wonderful.

**Aya:** Is it because of the long winter?

**Letty:** That's right. It'd be better if it would stay like this year-round. There's nothing good about spring. Just a whole lot of pollen floating around, that's all.

**Aya:** Anyway, I wonder why this year's winter has been so long.

**Letty:** Ah, do you suspect I'm behind this? It's beyond my abilities, I'll have you know.

**Aya:** That was just a guess on my part. But since they've finished the spring-summoning ritual, it ought to be here soon.

**Letty:** What kind of ritual is that? I'm just flying along, enjoying the weather, and suddenly I get attacked, for no reason whatsoever.

**Aya:** I imagine even the humans are getting irritated. It's cold, and the blizzard shows no signs of stopping. If not for that, I doubt you would have been assaulted, since humans attacking youkai are practically unheard of.



**Letty:** I guess you're right...

**Aya:** ... Well, among the humans I know, there's one that would come at you for no reason.

**Letty:** This human... You can't mean...

**Aya:** The one who was welcoming spring... I mean, attacked you, wouldn't happen to be all red and white, by chance?

**Letty:** Boo-hoo-hoo...

**Aya:** There simply wasn't anything you could have done. Just think of it as a stroke of bad luck, and...

**Letty:** Does it even make sense? I was having so much fun playing around in the snow, and thought I'd tease the human that showed up just a bit, that's all.

**Aya:** By the way, what do you do during the other seasons?

**Letty:** I go into a deep sleep during spring, stay inactive through summer, and nap during autumn. I stay hidden and rest in places out of reach of the sunlight. I don't move or breathe much...

**Aya:** It sure is a tough life...

**Letty:** That's why I must enjoy winter for all it's worth.

**Aya:** But it gets treated as a scapegoat during the spring-summoning ritual. Clearly, spring is more favored by everyone else. Can you really enjoy it?

**Letty:** Sigh. Winter is supposed to be cold. It's wrong to treat it so cruelly!

**Aya:** Wouldn't everyone be happy if you tried to stay active in summer and reduced the heat a little?

**Letty:** Oh, that's a good idea. Well, that's what I'd like to say, but I manipulate the cold. Don't confuse it with manipulating cold air like a certain fairy.

**Aya:** They sound similar to me...

**Letty:** Those fairies are just minor anomalies of nature. I, on the other hand, am a great youkai that lives in nature. When it's cold out, making it even colder is my greatest joy.

**Aya:** A youkai that has become complacent is a problem. A youkai's job is to attack humans.

**Letty:** But I did attack that human from before...

**Aya:** But that doesn't work if you only come out as a sacrifice for a ritual. Anyway, I'm starting to feel chilly, so maybe I should leave now.

**Letty:** That's so cold of you. I thought you said it was almost spring...

### *Letty Whiterock*

Winter youkai that appears out of nowhere. Has the ability to manipulate cold.

*Appearances:* Perfect Cherry Blossom

*Season 119 3rd of Satsuki*<sup>10</sup>

## **Mysterious Flower Petals Beneath the Cherry Trees**

**Is this the work of a new religious organization?**



Illustration by Chiha Ayami

I heard reports from the inhabitants of Gensokyo that around 4 P.M. on ○th the ○, a great number of cherry petals lay scattered beneath the cherry trees, which had not yet begun to blossom. As petals that have not blossomed cannot fall, I decided to investigate the matter further. As a result, I was able to establish that the petals were from a type of cherry tree that doesn't grow in Gensokyo. Finding this unusual, I decided to keep watch under the cherry trees, and after three days

I met somebody who seemed a likely suspect.

That suspect was the mistress of the Netherworld, Yuyuko Saigyouji (ghost). When I found her, she was walking together with a servant who was carrying a large basket filled with flower petals, which I pointed out as implicating them in the current incident. The suspect responded:

“You wish to know what we are doing? As you can see, we’re returning Gensokyo its spring. When we scatter these petals around, these cherry petals should bloom right before your eyes.”

Then, when I asked her if there was something special about those cherry blossoms, she replied,

“Of course, they’re very special. If we spread them around, spring will come to Gensokyo.”

Saying this, she reached into her servant’s basket, took some cherry blossoms, and threw them into the air. The blossoms on the cherry trees hadn’t opened yet, but the petals slowly fluttered to the ground as if spring had visited that spot, and the suspect spun about dancing among the falling cherry blossom petals.

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<sup>10</sup>May



It was extremely hard to understand, but the flower petals she was scattering about appeared to be natural flower petals, so it's likely there was no inherent danger in this incident. Spring's coming this year has been late compared to previous years, and the cherry blossoms haven't opened yet, leaving all of Gensokyo's inhabitants impatient. Perhaps this sprightly ghost was impatient for the arrival of spring, and thought that she could at least enjoy a fabricated spring in that way.



Ms. Saigyouji replying to our interview.

However, it is still a mystery how she obtained natural cherry blossoms, where they were from, and what sort of cherry tree produced them.

Ms. Saigyouji replying to our interview.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

From page:

2 — This Year's Cherry Blossoms Blooming Delayed Drastically

7 — The Failure of Gensokyo's First Radio Broadcast Test

34 — A Fairy's Prank? The Localized Downpour of Invisible Rain

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**Yuyuko:** Oh my, the ghost in this article looks so elegant.

**Aya:** Please don't talk about yourself like that.

**Yuyuko:** Oh, this is about me? I was just returning spring. The cherry blossoms opened soon after this, didn't they?

**Aya:** When you say "returning"... it makes it sound like you borrowed it.

**Yuyuko:** I was borrowing it, from that shrine maiden.

**Aya:** The shrine maiden? What did she have to do with this? Hm, that could make for another article...

**Yuyuko:** If you're interested, why not interview me? You can interrogate me to your heart's desire.

**Aya:** No, thank you.

**Yuyuko:** But, isn't the freshness of the news important for newspaper articles? This is too old.



Illustration by Touya

you.

### *Yuyuko Saigyouji*

As princess of the dead, she has the power to control death. She had her gardener, Youmu, gather Gensokyo's spring in order to try to lift the seal on the youkai cherry tree, the Saigyou Ayakashi. She has a very simple and straightforward personality.

*Appearances:* Perfect Cherry Blossom, Immaterial and Missing Power, Imperishable Night, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

**Aya:** Even if they're old, interesting things are still interesting. If no one reports on them, no one may ever realize the truth.

**Yuyuko:** But you might let something new and interesting get away.

**Aya:** It's important to learn from the past. You can learn new things by examining the old.

**Yuyuko:** Who are you calling old?

**Aya:** I wasn't talking about

**Yuyuko:** How rude! I'm still a pert young soul!

**Aya:** Getting back to the matter at hand... why were you scattering about those cherry blossoms? I'd like to know the truth.

**Yuyuko:** Yes, I agree that the truth is the most interesting thing. And as everyone is interested in different things... you could say the truth varies, too. For example, these two buns...

**Aya:** Look, now, no changing the subject. I'm asking you about the truth behind this matter.

**Yuyuko:** My, you're so impatient. What happened last year is ancient history; I've already forgotten all about it.

**Aya:** Weren't you just about to tell me something?

**Yuyuko:** Do you know the story of Old Man Hanasaka, who made an old, dead tree flower by scattering magical ash on it?

**Aya:** Old Man Hanasaka?

**Yuyuko:** How rude. I'm not that old.

**Aya:** No, we weren't talking about you.

**Yuyuko:** What I was scattering about were magical flower petals full of love and affection.

**Aya:** But that wasn't ash.

**Yuyuko:** Maybe it was?

**Aya:** Don't tell me you were trying to make the cherry trees flower by scattering cherry blossoms around?

**Yuyuko:** I was returning the spring I borrowed from the shrine maiden, with interest. Isn't that what you're supposed to do when you borrow things?

**Aya:** ... In any case, from where did you get those cherry blossoms? There weren't any cherry trees in bloom at the time.

**Yuyuko:** Well, Gensokyo's cherry trees bloomed after that, didn't they? The cherry blossoms were just what I'd borrowed. So, I had to return them, of course. By the way, are you going to eat that bun?

**Aya:** Ugh! This doesn't look like it'll make a good article. Please stop speaking so nonsensically!



*Season 113, 1st of Fuzuki* <sup>11</sup>

## Sudden Location Change at Poltergeists' Concert

No confusion during the shift in venue, but why move?



Illustration by Genji Asai

I learned that on ○th the ○, the poltergeists who were performing at Hakugyokurou suddenly announced a change of venues in the middle of their performance, moving the entire audience in front of the Scarlet Devil Mansion. Although there were no major disturbances as the concert continued after the move, even the audience members were tilting their heads about this migration from the Netherworld to the world of the living, wondering, “Why?” In the end, no explanation

was given after the concert was over, and the audience was too excited to bother bringing up the question.

The ones behind such a clamorous concert were the Prismriver Sisters (poltergeists). The eldest sister and the leader of the ensemble, Lunasa Prismriver, had this to say about the move.

“The air pressure had decreased. At that time in Hakugyokurou, the air pressure was decreasing. . . If that continued, it was definitely going to rain. So I ordered my sisters to move.”

She also said that she didn’t even tell her sisters, Merlin Prismriver and Lyrica Prismriver, the reason why they were moving.

“The rain would fall whether I told them or not. And the audience still followed us without complaints even without knowing the reason. The audience loves the surprise of not knowing what’s going to happen. If they knew the reason, then the move wouldn’t be a surprise, it’d be an evacuation. They would surely object.”

Just as she thought, nobody in the audience said anything. If anything, they seemed to enjoy this unexpected occurrence.

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<sup>11</sup>About August 22nd, 1998

It's often said that an artist is solely insistent about the performance, and do not concern themselves with putting on a good show, they will never become first-class. A concert should be made to entertain the audience. It is not enough to say that "good songs will make people happy." It is more like "a good concert makes your own songs sound even better."

However, I couldn't find out why she was the only one who sensed that it was going to rain soon. Judging by the fact that only the eldest sister sensed it, I don't think that it is a unique trait of poltergeists.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

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## Guide to Notable Locales in Gensokyo

### Scarlet Devil Mansion

In Gensokyo, there's a fairly large and deep lake. Near this lake stands a western-style mansion painted in a conspicuous scarlet. This building is called the Scarlet Devil Mansion, for the vampire who resides there. The gaudy interior design is also focused on stark hues of red. However, the mansion has few windows so the inside is rather dark, keeping it from being too hard on the eyes. Even so, the restless atmosphere from the whole mansion gives it a childish feel. But that is only to be expected, given how the vampire mistress is still a child.

They always hold various events on the mansion grounds. Most of them aren't announced in advance, however, so few other people are even aware of them other than the residents. However, there are a lot of maids. The amount of staff alone is enough to ensure a lively gathering. Holding such events shows the restless character of the mistress, well-suited to her dwelling.

No one knows when it arrived, but it seems unlikely for it to have been there for too long. As the building seems old, it may have once stood in the outside world in the past. If a building loses its existence in the outside world, it can sometimes become an illusory one. Perhaps such old-fashioned mansion houses may not exist there any longer. Even if they exist, they may be imaginary buildings; just for display, and not for living in.

The vampire and the maids serving her live inside the mansion. The existence of the whole mansion in Gensokyo may show that the vampire and maid are the illusionary beings that do not exist in the outer world anymore. Try imagining this stunning building and its residents' lives in the outside world the next time you see it.

(Aya Shameimaru)

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Illustration by Touya

### *Lunasa Prismriver*

She performs in an ensemble of poltergeists. Has two younger sisters, Merlin and Lyrica. Skilled with stringed instruments, especially the violin.

*Appearances:* Perfect Cherry Blossom, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

**Aya:** That was a fine performance at the concert. I enjoyed it as much as the other ones.

**Lunasa:** It was no trouble at all. Even though we have instruments, we don't sing.

**Aya:**

I see. The concert was fun. And it didn't rain today either.

**Lunasa:** What does rain have to do with the concert?

**Aya:** Here, in this article about the concert, you were the only one who seemed to know it was going to rain in this article.

**Lunasa:** Yes, I knew that right away.

**Aya:** How did know that?

**Lunasa:** When the air pressure decreased, the tension did as well.

**Aya:** I had no idea your intuition was so sharp...

**Lunasa:** Intuition? There seems to be some misunderstanding. I meant the tension in my violin's bowstring. If it slackens,

then the pitch decreases. The reverberations change, too. That's how I figured it out so soon.

**Aya:** Ah, so that's it. I certainly thought you seemed less tense.



**Lunasa:** The instrument was detuning so my tension was also decreasing.

**Aya:** Ah, I see. But one question has been on my mind for a while. I said your group was a band, but I don't really know if I can call it that. How do you do it with only three people playing violin, trumpet, and keyboard?

**Lunasa:** How long has that been bothering you? You've obviously seen us perform.

**Aya:** I'm not finished yet. Doesn't this seem like a strange combination of instruments?

**Lunasa:** How?

**Aya:** I'm saying that I could never imagine what kind of songs that makeup of instruments could perform, that it's difficult to think of a way to make them work with each other. A normal band doesn't even have a violin to begin with, right?

**Lunasa:** So what do you mean?

**Aya:** Nothing else needs to be said.

**Lunasa:** You don't know the first thing about music. The essence of music is about producing sounds. It's never about copying them. The sheet music is superfluous. Making the sounds itself is the most important point. If sounds removed from nature are noise, there is no difference between excellent music and noise.

**Aya:** It's noise, huh? I certainly agree your group is noisy.

**Lunasa:** Something that can make sound, whatever it may be, can produce noise. The performers make the music, the instruments are simply decorations.

**Aya:** So, you're saying that you play the violin as a result of just playing whichever instrument you like?

**Lunasa:** No, it's just because the violin is my forte.

**Aya:** But didn't you just say that instruments are simply decorations?

**Lunasa:** If it weren't my forte, I wouldn't be able to play the sounds I wanted, would I? If I can't play it freely, I can't make noise.

**Aya:** I heard this can be a little hard to say, but to make a long story short, your concerts are cacophonous.

**Lunasa:** I am very grateful for your compliment.

*Season 114, 1st of Kannazuki* <sup>12</sup>

## **Is the Middle Prismriver Sister Going Solo?**

**At the hill of the ghosts of suicide victims**



Illustration by Genji Asai

This article is about the recent actions of the middle Prismriver sister, Merlin Prismriver (poltergeist). She plays the trumpet in their ensemble, but she has been performing alone on occasion. She especially tends to go to places where souls can be awoken, so I went to one to get total coverage on this issue.

There I saw her arrive and give a refined trumpet recital. The night air was filled with a great number of ghosts. They also had a wide variety of personalities. Among these were the souls of those who had died holding on to grudges and attachments. Over the next several nights, she would perform on her own, usually for those had committed suicide.

Unlike when she would perform with her sisters, her sound was rich with expression. The mood was much lighter than the ghosts expected it to be, and they would soar throughout the graveyard. It was as though her trumpet were controlling the ghosts, rallying them like an army. I asked her for the reason behind her actions.

“Even though the three of us play violin, trumpet, and keyboard, the sound of each instrument has a different role. With my older sister’s gentle songs, the melancholic sounds calm the listener’s mood. My intense songs can transform feelings, and my chaotic noise uplifts the listener’s mood. Lyrica brings those two ends together into an ear-achingly good song with the sounds of illusion. If one of these elements are lacking, then the music would run wild like some crazy magic spell. On the other hand, for these ghosts of people who committed suicide, driving them crazy helps them out, so I’m the only one who needs to perform. If we were dealing with insane people, my older sister

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<sup>12</sup>About November 8th, 1999

would be a good choice, and while Lyrica wouldn't be particularly effective, there shouldn't be a problem. . . so basically any one person doing whatever they want is fine, yeah?"

It seems the difference between the instruments and their performers goes beyond the sounds they produce. It is surprising there are those who understand how to use music to change the condition of those who listen to it. But it is indeed true. The overly rich expressions of her solo trumpet performance can change the mood so quickly, it is impossible to sit still while listening to her. While I was listening to her performance for research purposes, I became so elated that I almost knocked over a tombstone. It would be best for those of stable mind to avoid any of these three performers while they are performing by themselves.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

\* \* \*

**Merlin:** Saying people shouldn't listen to our performance is so mean!

**Aya:** But my intended meaning was that it would be too dangerous. Even someone as calm and collected as myself practically lost their head listening to you.

**Merlin:** There's no way sounds that don't have any effect on the spirit are worthwhile! If they don't stir the heart, I couldn't care less. My sounds are emotional sounds, and the spinning of my trumpet is like an amplifier for those emotions.

**Aya:** So it spins, huh? Just like you.

**Merlin:** How rude. I don't go "that" far, but I try to enjoy every day a little bit.

**Aya:** That sounds like fun. So how is life with your sisters?

**Merlin:** We're usually really noisy. While they say it gets loud whenever there are three girls together, in our case, it's not because we're talking, but because we're practicing. Whoever is



Illustration by Touya



the loudest wins! Isn't it amazing how we're all on that same wavelength? Don't just take my word for it.

### *Merlin Prismriver*

Lunasa's younger sister, so she's also a poltergeist. She is good with wind instruments and especially favors the trumpet.

*Appearances:* Perfect Cherry Blossom, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

**Aya:** You say "wins", so everything is always a matter of winning and losing?

**Merlin:** That's more a matter of your mood, I guess.

**Aya:** So does your older sister lose the most? That's what I think, but she is the most mature out of you all.

**Merlin:** When my older sister gets loud, she **really** gets

loud. Her noisiness level is quite high, enough to break glass.

**Aya:** You are indeed quite the poltergeists. By the way, about the article on your solo performance, did the ghosts of those who committed suicide all go to the next world?

**Merlin:** Maybe they did, maybe they didn't. They might have been able to leave the graveyard a bit.

**Aya:** They can do that?

**Merlin:** I didn't really perform to lead dead spirits into the next world. It was only to give ghosts who still had lingering attachments to this world a little bit of fun. I thought it would be a good idea to let them forget their all-too-short life with some exciting songs. But I should mention that my sisters told me to do it.

**Aya:** Your sisters must really enjoy performing to be planning them so often.

**Merlin:** Well, it was because I lost to Lunasa before.

**Aya:** So winning and losing has nothing to do with your mood.

**Merlin:** I was only kidding!

**Aya:** Now that I think of it, during your recital, I wasn't expecting you to perform with other instruments besides the trumpet. What do you call them?

**Merlin:** If I only play the trumpet, that kind of puts a limit on the melody. Being able to play as many instruments as I want at the same time sure is handy. I played the trombone, which spun less than the trumpet, the tuba, which spun more than the trumpet, and the french horn, which spun much more than the trumpet. And there were many others, too.

**Aya:** You measure your instruments in how much they spin?

**Merlin:** I figured that's a good way to get people excited.  
That's why I play spinning instruments.

**Aya:** I think that when you perform, you spin around just  
as much.

**Merlin:** It's exciting, right?

**Aya:** Yes, exciting enough for me.

*Season 115, 4th of Satsuki* <sup>13</sup>

## In Search of New Sounds

### The sources of unnatural sound



Illustration by Genji Asai

I have received numerous requests practically demanding I finish my series on the Prismriver Sisters. There appears to be much interest in the mysterious sounds created by Lyrica Prismriver (poltergeist), the youngest. I similarly had a burning curiosity for how she makes such strange, unearthly sounds. I pressed her for a tell-all interview.

For the uninitiated, the Prismriver Sisters are comprised of violinist Lunasa Prismriver, trumpeter Merlin Prismriver, and keyboardist Lyrica Prismriver, going from oldest to youngest. They hold live concerts in many places around Gensokyo. Lyrica's piano-like instrument plays unimaginable, extraordinary sounds that clearly are not produced by natural means. It is notable for the fact that it can produce notes within a wide scale and with amazing clarity. Very few others have heard anything like it.

"This keyboard itself is like an illusion. Perhaps it could be said to be the phantom of an instrument that plays sounds that have been lost in the outside world. I don't really understand how it works, but as long it can play music, there's no problem. Sounds as well as instruments can pass into fantasy. If they then disappear from Gensokyo as well, they become phantoms. My sound is the sound of fantasy, the notes of the other world. It makes perfect sense that no one from this world has heard them before, yeah?"

She was talking about the sounds that have greeted death. It is true that phantoms can also play wondrous notes. These highly mysterious notes like the blowing of horns or beating of drums give expressions like spoken words, yet are rarely heard. In addition, though they should be called phantom sounds, they

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<sup>13</sup>About June 5th, 2000



might be sounds that could have been an everyday occurrence long ago, but, for some reason or another, can no longer be heard today.

Furthermore, the notes Lyrica plays are said to be sounds that have died off in the outside world. Such fantastic notes must also exist in that world, too. So to speak, these sounds are much like the poltergeists that live in Gensokyo. And there is nothing else that symbolizes these phantom sounds but the keyboard.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

From page:

5 — Fairy of Ice, Eaten by Giant Toad  
 32 — Accepting Applications for the Baked Potato Club  
 32 — Good Haul of Clams, High Quality of Grains This Year  
 33 — Fear of Birdlime, Bird Poaching Soon to Follow

\* \* \*

**Lyrica:** It's remarkable, isn't it?

**Aya:** What is?

**Lyrica:** Because I can stir the emotions of people through sounds they've never heard before!

**Aya:** But you still have no idea how they are made, right?

**Lyrica:** Why would I have to?

**Aya:** We will recognize the remarkableness of the notes after we recognize your efforts.

**Lyrica:** So you're saying you want to know how the sounds are made? How about the sound of thunder, the sound of the wind rustling through the trees, the sound of cicadas chirping? I bet you can't explain a single one.

**Aya:** Yes, that is rather... difficult.

**Lyrica:** Right? So the one making the notes is more remarkable than how they make them.



Illustration by Touya

### *Lyrica Prismriver*

The youngest of the sisters. Upbeat and slick. Good at every instrument, but she usually plays keyboard instruments and percussion.

*Appearances:* Perfect Cherry Blossom, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

**Aya:** I see.

**Lyrica:** All those examples I was talking about are found everywhere in nature, yeah? That's why nature is remarkable. If I were to use those kinds of sounds, I wouldn't be remarkable at all.

**Aya:** So how are your sounds remarkable?

**Lyrica:** Sounds not from nature, sounds only existing in fantasy, sounds not of this world, sounds that have died off. There's no one else who can use those kinds of sounds. That's why I'm remarkable.

**Aya:** Remarkable, indeed. By the way, about these fantastic sounds, how did you come to be able to use them?

**Lyrica:** Well, duh. I'm a poltergeist. It's only natural I can use them. If I couldn't, it would be unnatural.

**Aya:** So that's just how it is, huh? I don't think that's a very satisfactory answer.

**Lyrica:** There's more to us than simply being noisy ghosts. It's more like we are ghosts of noisiness.

**Aya:** So noise can also die?

**Lyrica:** Noise is the sound of life. It's the sound of feelings, emotions, and mood swings. The noisiness comes from an explosion of emotions from the living. When that noisiness removes itself from that dependence, that creates a poltergeist. Isn't that remarkable?

**Aya:** I'm sorry, but that's not really remarkable.

**Lyrica:** I can combine my sisters' contrasting moods with my own remaining emotions and express them as a song. The emotions are linked through dreams, and me and my sisters can create the noisiness of living things. That's called the music of spirits, or spirit songs. Isn't that just remarkable?

**Aya:** When people who play music talk about it, everything starts to blur together. Your sisters have nothing on you when it comes to that.

**Lyrica:** That's because our sounds are our life. It really isn't that hard to understand.

**Aya:** It may be simple for you, but I have a much harder time grasping such subjects.

**Lyrica:** So you can't enjoy music unless you can understand it? If you don't understand the sounds you hear, it does not lift your spirits? If you can't tell if the technique of a musical group

is great or not, you can't talk about their songs? I've only heard of humans having such a narrow way of thinking.

**Aya:** Oh, you're absolutely correct. Hearts can be moved by music, and noise is the best kind of music.

**Lyrica:** You got that right.



*Season 119, 5th of Hazuki* <sup>14</sup>

## Phantom Procession on a Midsummer Afternoon

### Dumbfounding daytime display



Illustration by Tomoe Rokuwata

On ○ the ○th, a strange incident occurred at about 1:00 PM in which a mass of phantoms flew over Gensokyo. Those witness to the spectacle were all surprised, as they'd never seen such a huge number of phantoms before nightfall. Hearing the news, I chased them with the fastest feet in all of Gensokyo.

The phantoms numbering beyond my initial expectation were all heading in the same direction as if marching. It was so cold inside the swarm of phantoms, and I couldn't help but feel how strange the gap was between that and the summer heat.

The one who led the group was Youmu Konpaku (Half-human, half-phantom), who works as a gardener in the Netherworld. I directly asked her in flight why and to where she was leading the huge number of phantoms.

"I just came here to take them back to the Netherworld. Since the boundary between this world and the Netherworld is thin at the moment, it takes very little effort for them to cross over to this world. Yesterday, there were fires for the ancestor-greeting ritual all over Gensokyo, and because of that, some of the phantoms got confused by the greeting and came into this world. Then, even more ghosts took advantage of the situation to come to Gensokyo and play around. That's why I'm taking them back home."

As she said, it was the first day of Bon Festival yesterday, so humans made quite a few bonfires for the ritual. It's ironic that the thoughtless fires called not only their ancestors but also a bunch of bored phantoms.

Also, the gardener gave the following warning about phantoms:

"Even if you see any phantoms, don't feed or become attached to them. Once phantoms become friendly with you, they won't

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<sup>14</sup>About September 18th, 2004

part so easily. Plus, phantoms are extremely cold, so you risk getting frostbite if you touch them. If you find any phantoms, please just ignore them or contact Hakugyokurou or a shrine maiden.”

Though there was no sense of danger or foul play in this incident, it would seem best not to provoke or eat any phantoms found floating in the air.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

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## Guide to Notable Locales in Gensokyo

### Hakugyokurou

Recently, there has been much ado about Netherworld being a fantastic sightseeing location. Now that the border of the Netherworld has somehow thinned, it is rather easy to visit while still alive. Originally, one could only go there after they had died. Upon entering, the quiet, sprawling garden is an incredible sight to behold. It appears hazy off in the distance, and no matter how fast you fly over it, it seems like it will never end. The fact that the garden belongs to just one mansion is another incredible fact.

This breathtakingly large garden belongs to Hakugyokurou, a Japanese manor with tinges of the atmospheres from another land. Though the manor is indeed large, it appears small when compared to the scope of its garden.

A veritable sea of cherry blossoms can be seen in the garden of Hakugyokurou, the likes of which are unheard of anywhere else in Gensokyo. Plenty of phantoms and youkai attracted by these beautiful flowers visit here every year. Recently, living humans also have finally learned of its existence. That’s why Hakugyokurou’s flower-viewing parties are said to be beyond life and death. No one is certain how long the border will remain thin, so it would be a good idea to visit as soon as possible.

I also took part in a party. A huge number of ghosts and the three Prismriver Sisters live in concert created for an exciting experience. I thought the Netherworld was a quiet place, so I was surprised how different my impression was from reality.

In other words, humans will be able to live merrily like this in the world after death, so they should live their lives to the fullest while they're alive. In order to live this happy lifestyle in the Netherworld, they must work hard without committing suicide so they don't go to Hell. Considering this, humans appear to be both industrious and adorable beings.

(Aya Shameimaru)

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Illustration by Chiha Ayami

**Aya:** It has been a year since this even, yet the number of phantoms hasn't seem to have decreased at all.

**Youmu:** I'm still doing my best. I know I am!

**Aya:** But that doesn't change the outcome.

**Youmu:** *Sniff*

**Aya:** Gensokyo has already become accustomed to the phantoms. It's now perfectly normal to see phantoms flying around everywhere.

**Youmu:** Are you being sar-

castic?

### *Youmu Konpaku*

A half-phantom and half-human. An earnest dual katana-wielding swordswoman tripling as the gardener of the Saigyōji clan and guardian of their mistress.

*Appearances:* Perfect Cherry Blossom, Immaterial and Missing Power, Imperishable Night, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

**Aya:** Not at all. Maybe we're becoming more familiar with Netherworld, or constantly staring death in the face. That feeling of teetering on the brink...

**Youmu:** I don't know what you're trying to say, but it has definitely become easier to travel between this world and the Netherworld. These days, living humans and youkai come to the Netherworld without even think-

ing about it, and the dead come to this world, too.

**Aya:** Isn't this an acceptable situation?

**Youmu:** It's not. I don't think it is, anyway.



**Aya:** You don't sound convinced.

**Youmu:** The dead belong to the Netherworld; the living belong to this world. Though the natural order of things is ideal, slight disturbances should not affect much. The dead aren't about to come back to life, and the living won't unexpectedly drop dead. So, I'm not sure why I have to keep the phantoms in the Netherworld and keep the living out.

**Aya:** If you're confused, the situation will never return to normal, I guess.

**Youmu:** Plus, the boundary between the Netherworld and the world doesn't look like it'll be repaired. I can't do anything by myself...

**Aya:** By the way, you're also a living human, aren't you? Why do you work in the Netherworld?

**Youmu:** Me? I've never thought of that. But I'm a dead human, too, so...hmm...

**Aya:** You don't have to think about it too hard. I was expecting an answer like "I'm paid well" or "I have a lot of time off".

**Youmu:** I've never been paid at all...and what's "time off"?

**Aya:** Ah, what a pity.

**Youmu:** Oh, I don't need any sympathy...I get a snack at 3 o'clock, and I've gotten sick leave before, I guess...

**Aya:** Truly a pity...

**Youmu:** Anyway, I've served the Saigyouji clan since I was born, so it's natural for me.

**Aya:** I'm starting to wonder if the natural thing to do is always right.

**Youmu:** The natural order of things is right. They say it differs from person to person, but I'm not talking about that kind of obvious common sense. The dead belong to the Netherworld and the living belong to this world; the youkai eat humans and the humans defeat youkai. I've been taught that the natural order of the world is the overlying ultimate truth.

**Aya:** And one of your 'natural' things is to have no salary and no vacation?

**Youmu:** *Sniffle*

*Season 119, 3rd of Hazuki* <sup>15</sup>

## Youkai Practices Animal Abuse

**The silent terror that assaults our idyllic Gensokyo**



Illustrated by Genji Asai

On ○ the ○th, I suddenly heard a yelp similar to that of a fox's at around 2 in the morning. It did not seem like a trifling matter, so I rubbed my sleepy eyes and headed for the source. When I arrived, I saw in front of me a youkai cruelly sitting on a fox in a shocking display of animal abuse. As I am a crow tengu, it was an extremely heart-wrenching scene.

The offender was Yukari Yakumo (youkai). She is an elusive one-of-a-kind youkai. Her very being itself is a mystery, as is her background. She always wears ostentatious clothing and an unsettling smile, intimidating all who come in contact with her. The offender had this to say regarding her actions:

"Animal abuse? My, when did I ever do such a thing? Ah, you mean Ran here. This isn't abuse, just a little disciplining. Besides, Ran may look like a fox but she's a shikigami. She's not an animal."



Ms. Yakumo (youkai), unyielding in her denial of abuse.

Since the offender's words are completely illogical nonsense which any normal person would have difficulty understanding, I've taken the liberty of interpreting them such a way that will make things clearer. The offender's excuse can be explained as followed. Ran, the fox that was being abused, is not an animal at all but a shikigami. Shikigami are not animals, but merely tools, and the more one uses a tool, the more one loves it. That is why she uses her frequently. She says that emotion alone is not enough, that this is another form of love as she smacks the fox's head with her parasol.

<sup>15</sup>About September 16th, 2004

“Listen. Shikigami need only do as they are ordered. Today, you went ahead and fought with humans, did you not? I do not recall ordering that. No matter what may happen, no matter how dangerous the situation may appear to be, you are only to do as I say. That is what is best for you.”

The offender continued with her irrational claims, attempting to justify her abuse. As I am half animal, I intend to pursue this further.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

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## Illusionary Music

### Dying in the Dendera Fields in the Night

Song from Ghostly Field Club

When I wrote this song, I designed it to start out eerie and slowly become more and more courageous. Something like going to a graveyard in the middle of the night on a dare, except it's no ordinary trial. It's a trial accepted by those who truly believe they are mingling with the Netherworld, like they become wandering spirits themselves. . .

The part of this song that leaves the most of an impression is the cute yet courageous hook. It's like imagining mysterious girls dancing among a gravesite with no tombstones. If you think of it that way, even the intro with the ghostly sounds (as I call them) also sounds cute.

The sounds that most ghosts seem to make are like “Whoo-oooo”, and that's my image of them as well. I think that even in the rain the sounds of ghosts would resonate clearly.

\* \* \*

**Yukari:** I see. And?

**Aya:** I will never yield when it comes to animal abuse.

**Yukari:** I'm not abusing any beast. Besides, you are the one that wrote this, no? Then you should fully understand.





Illustration by Touya

### *Yukari Yakumo*

A youkai living in Gensokyo from long ago, and has the ability to control boundaries. As an old friend of Yuyuko, she is sometimes asked for favors. Usually sleeps during the day, but possesses enormous power.

*Appearances:* Perfect Cherry Blossom, Immaterial and Missing Power, Imperishable Night

**Aya:** No, I do not understand. What I witnessed was nothing other than animal abuse.

**Yukari:** Seeing things from only one point of view shows that you lack imagination and analytical skills. Even if the answer is right before your eyes, you will overlook it. That is because you are only looking at the back side of the answer. But that sort of quality is well-suited for a re-

porter.

**Aya:** Even if I do not understand what you are saying, all I need to do is find the reality of the situation. That is because my job is to tell only the truth.

**Yukari:** How can you see the truth without seeing the whole picture? Your newspaper is going to stay shoddy like that.

**Aya:** The “Bunbunmaru Newspaper” is nowhere near shoddy!

**Yukari:** At any rate, I will explain once again for Ran’s sake. It is not abuse; it is discipline. Ran is a shikigami, so if she does not do exactly as I say, she will be unable to perform at her optimal efficiency. Despite that, she ignored orders and fought with humans. So, I scolded her.

**Aya:** ... Wouldn’t she have been in danger if she didn’t fight?

**Yukari:** Not at all. She was only in danger because she fought. Do you not understand? Ran is not a fox, but a shikigami.

**Aya:** That claim is what I do not understand. Exactly how are they different?

**Yukari:** By following my will, Ran can obtain power equal to my level. Therefore, if she properly follows my orders, it would be impossible for her to lose. If she acts on her own, her power will be weakened to a degree that could not compare in the least. Fighting in that state would be nothing more than foolishness.

**Aya:** What if she was sure she could win like that?

**Yukari:** With a more reliable method for victory on hand, what need is there to choose a hazardous one? That would only end up with Ran in danger. That is why unless I am somewhat strict in my teaching, it would not be of any benefit to her.

**Aya:** ...

**Yukari:** In addition, Ran occasionally forgets that she is a shikigami, a servant. That is extremely dangerous. If she does not have a firm grasp on her position, she will easily diverge from the path I have laid out. It was likely because I was unable to supervise her while I was asleep, but at the very least, it now seems like she will not soon lose sight of who the master is.

**Aya:** Isn't that only because she is scared of being abused?

**Yukari:** No, there is a difference in power, and virtue, between us.

**Aya:** I will not be fooled by your self-accomodating explanations!

**Yukari:** You truly have no comprehensive faculty.

**Aya:** I am only burning with righteous anger. Whatever reason you may have, I cannot overlook abuse.

**Yukari:** My, my, you are quite the cute one.

**Aya:** Wh-what do you...

**Yukari:** Become my shikigami. Maybe you will come to understand by putting yourself in Ran's shoes?

**Aya:** I am against animal abuse!

Season 120, 1st of Satsuki <sup>16</sup>

## Width of the Sanzu River Calculated

The math magician did this to kill time...



Illustrated by Genji Asai

On the ○th of ○, a mathematics whiz calculated the width of the Sanzu River, astonishing related parties. The Sanzu River is the river that separates this world and the next. This river has no fixed width. Rather, it is famous for extending to extreme distances under certain circumstances. Because of this, calculating the width of the river was assumed to be impossible.

The numerical super-genius who accomplished this feat is Ran Yakumo (shikigami). Her computational prowess is unbelievable, able to solve complicated equations in an instant. When asked why she decided to try and calculate the width of the Sanzu River, she simply replied that it was to waste time.

While our readers may be curious about width of the Sanzu River, some degree of specialized knowledge is needed to understand the formulas involved. For that reason, this article will not go into details. I suggest those interested ask her directly. As for a general synopsis:

“The Sanzu River is not a normal river, but one that carries away the past. This is why the actual length is different from the observed length. It is necessary to know the histories of the deceased to calculate that distance. The breadth of the river, depending on the person, can take either a mere instant to cross or an practically interminable amount of time. Humans may not know what factor determines this, but it has been said to be related to the ferryman’s fee. The more you pay the ferryman, the shorter the distance. Plotting the curve of this inversely proportional function, we see that the closer to zero the ferryman receives, the closer the distance approaches

<sup>16</sup>About June 7th, 2005



infinity. Conversely, the more the ferryman is paid, the closer the distance approaches zero.”

Also, wealth in the other world is not the same thing as wealth in the present world. Humans cannot bring their fortune from this world to the next when they die. That is why it seems the amount paid is determined by other factors. From here on, the calculations take into account factors such as the histories of the deceased, where several thousand formulae are needed to solve the equation.



The achiever of today's exploits, Ms. Yakumo (shikigami).

However, even though she says she can accurately calculate the distance, the equation is so complicated, nobody is able to verify her computations. With no way to tell if she is correct, I do not feel this could be of the slightest use.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

From page:

3 — Mirage on the Lake at Night? Cause Unknown  
 19 — Flying Youkai's Misfortunes: A Double Whammy of Yellow Dust and Pollen  
 23 — Bamboo Shoots in Season

\* \* \*

**Ran:** But it is correct.

**Aya:** Hmmm. I haven't seen a pointless accomplishment on this large of a scale in a long time.

**Ran:** I told you that I only did this out of boredom.

**Aya:** But you are really good at mathematics, unlike me.

**Ran:** Here, an equation with a thousand formulae.

**Aya:** Ack!

**Ran:** And here is the proof.

**Aya:** Ughhhhh.

**Ran:** I'm a shikigami, so something like this is just child's play.

**Aya:** ... Do you always think of such things when you are bored?



Illustrated by Touya

themselves are shikigami. Just as equations that neither diverge nor converge produce an infinite number of solid objects, so do the equations Lady Yukari uses to increase my power indefinitely. I therefore act as the equations command.

### *Ran Yakumo*

Yukari's shikigami, she acts when her master is asleep. Though she is a shikigami, she is able to use shikigami herself.

*Appearances:* Perfect Cherry Blossom, Imperishable Night

**Ran:** I try to calculate things like how many particles it would take to blanket Gensokyo with mist or how long it would take to reach the North Star.

**Aya:** You must always be really bored.

**Ran:** I've got time to waste, since Lady Yukari is sleeping all the time...

**Aya:** Is this what they mean when they say shikigami are good with at mathematics?

**Ran:** Naturally; equations

**Aya:** So that's how it is. I don't think I could keep up acting in a predetermined fashion. It'd be too constraining.

**Ran:** Even if you could fly many times faster than you do now? Even if you could become many times stronger?

**Aya:** Speed means nothing if I can't control it. Freedom gives

flight meaning.

**Ran:** Even if you could land many times more scoops?

**Aya:** Ngh!

**Ran:** ...Do you want me to make you my shikigami?

**Aya:** Please spare me... Wait, aren't you a shikigami yourself?

**Ran:** I'm a shikigami, but I can also use shikigami. I'm controlling one right now.

**Aya:** That's surprising.

**Ran:** If it weren't so, then you wouldn't know the reason I determined the width of the Sanzu River, would you.

**Aya:** Oh, I see. Since you use a shikigami, you're good with equations, which means that even as you're run by equations, you're also controlling them...

**Ran:** Yes.

**Aya:** So it is akin to creating a new formula and then making another formula that will solve it. Does that mean your master...is better at numbers than you are?

**Ran:** It goes without saying that there is no comparison. I could never understand much less solve Lady Yukari's equations.

**Aya:** How terrifying...

**Ran:** Lady Yukari would determine not only the Sanzu River's width but also the depth of the bottom of Avici. She'd find out how long it would take Ursa Major to devour the North Star, all in an instant. Normally all she does is sleep, but the instant she opens her mouth, she gives orders no one else would think up.

**Aya:** This conversation's gone into a whole other dimension. So there are still youkai around with that much power...



*Season 119, 2nd of Kannazuki* <sup>17</sup>

## The Village of Cats

**The paradise for cats where they run free**



Illustrated by Genji Asai

It is said that deep in the mountains, far from the Human Village, there is a small village populated only by cats. They have created a self-sustained society that they control themselves, not obliged to anyone. Until now, its existence has been an unverified rumor, so I decided to go find this village for myself.

It did not quite fit the rumors, but there was indeed a group of cats living in a settlement abandoned by humans. However, it was hardly a well-regulated society.

Each cat did whatever it wanted. It was a chaotic place where the cats constantly fought among themselves and hardly seemed to notice when a stranger such as myself appeared, and and there were fierce contests for even the smallest scraps of food.

The individual in charge of trying to create some order in this chaos was Chen (shikigami). I asked her why and how she had brought all the cats here.

“No, no, don’t go that way. Hm? You want to know why I brought all these cats here? Hehehe, I wanted a servant who would listen to my orders, so I figured I’d pick out the strongest and most obedient one of the bunch. Getting them here was easy. With some food and a little bit of catnip, they were more than happy to follow me. They can take shelter from the weather in the old, abandoned houses, and I’ll catch food for them, so it’s like a cat paradise.”

As she was speaking, the cats were causing trouble every which way. It seemed to be because the catnip was too strong, but according to Chen, if they couldn’t run around like this they wouldn’t obey her orders.

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<sup>17</sup>About November 13th, 2004

Certainly, a great number of youkai use animals as their servants. Even I keep a crow. However, I've never heard of a bakeneko keeping other cats. That is probably because cats are very independent and proud creatures. Perhaps this is because it would take a stronger youkai than a bakeneko to successfully keep other cats as servants.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

From page:

4 — Is the Use of Bottles to Repel Cats Superstition?

16 — Great Number of Bronze Bells Excavated Near the Barrier

24 — Breakthrough in Fast Food: A Red Bean Rice Ball Shop for the Temperate

\* \* \*

**Aya:** It looks like you've been scratched up quite a bit since then. Are you okay?

**Chen:** It's because they just won't listen to me. As soon as I tell them to do something they don't want to do, this happens. Why won't they listen to me?

**Aya:** You should understand that fairly well, shouldn't you? After all, you're a cat yourself.

**Chen:** What do you mean? Maybe I don't have enough catnip...

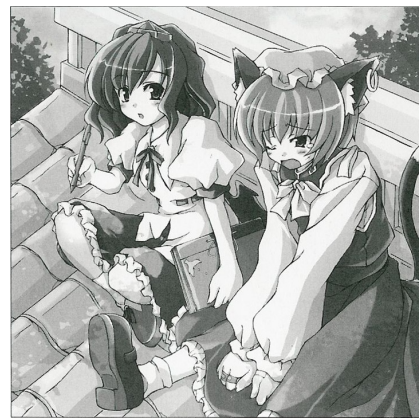
**Aya:** What you're really missing is authority. You're sorely lacking in that.

**Chen:** Maybe I don't have enough food...

**Aya:** You need more wisdom, instead. Since you're a cat, the best you can hope for in a servant is probably a mouse.

**Chen:** Having a mouse servant wouldn't be cool at all.

**Aya:** If you want to effortlessly control cats, I think relying on catnip is a mistake. If some youkai gave you catnip, would you listen to their orders?



Illustrated by Touya

*Chen*

She is a shikigami who possesses a bakeneko living in the mountain, and can use black arts. Ran Yakumo, who controls Chen, is a shikigami, too.

*Appearances:* Perfect Cherry Blossom, Imperishable Night

**Chen:** No way!

**Aya:** You're a shikigami too, right? Perhaps you should think about why you listen to your master.

**Chen:** Hmmm... It's because Miss Ran is so strong, and... oh, so you mean I have to get stronger, or they won't listen?

**Aya:** Perhaps you should consider finding a servant that is easier to control. Like a mouse.

**Chen:** Or maybe something else edible, like a bird.

**Aya:** No, don't use birds.

**Chen:** Maybe I could try a sparrow...

**Aya:** Oh, but even if you do that, you can't just abandon all the cats here. Something terrible would happen to them.

**Chen:** I'm not giving up on cats. I've already tamed them this well.

**Aya:** That's not saying that much... It doesn't look like they're that fond of you.

**Chen:** Of course they are! They come running to see me when I put out food, and even if I'm not putting out food. That's where most of the scratches come from.

**Aya:** Maybe they just see you as food now, too. They'll eat you.

**Chen:** Well, my fingers are pretty chewed up.

**Aya:** You can't really win over animals by raising them like that.

**Chen:** Say, how did you tame that crow? It looks like it really likes you.

**Aya:** When you're as strong as I am, all you have to do is hold out your hand to it when you first meet one. You can't really expect to have servants without that sort of absolute difference in power. Besides, this crow is more like my tool than my servant.

**Chen:** But even I'm way stronger than these regular cats.

**Aya:** I don't think you'd be so scratched up if that were true.

**Chen:** I think that's because I don't have enough catnip...

**Aya:** Look, your master is much, much stronger than you, right?

**Chen:** Yeah.

**Aya:** Your master doesn't have to use catnip on you to control you, right?

**Chen:** She does it sometimes.

**Aya:** ... In any case, you have to have that sort of difference in power to order someone around.



*Season 116, 2nd of Hazuki* <sup>18</sup>

## Demon Lurks in the Dark in Broad Daylight

**Adverse effects on summer plants, says expert**

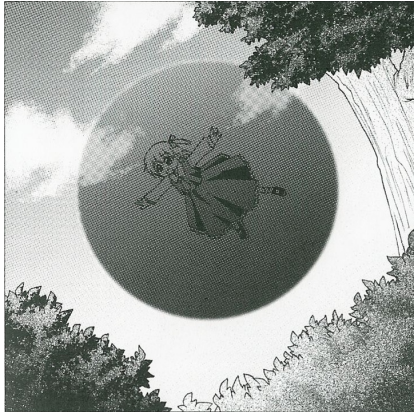


Illustration by Chiha Ayami

Lately, a small sphere of darkness has been sighted in the afternoons this summer. This lump of darkness absorbs all light that attempts to penetrate it as it moves through Gensokyo's fields. While it is unaffected by the light, it does not have any physical effect on anything it comes in contact with.

Its true identity is the youkai of darkness, Rumia (youkai). She abolishes the light around her, which prevents anyone from seeing her and vice-versa. I ques-

tioned Rumia as to why she was doing this.

"Because the sunlight is all hot in the summer and I don't like it. This way I'm out of the sunlight and I can beat the heat. If I'm surrounded by darkness, it's always a nice summery night, you know?"

Curious as to what effects being kept in the dark all day could bring, I decided to ask an expert familiar about life out of the sunlight.



Mr. Morichika (human), the expert on living out of the sunlight. Ms. Rumia (youkai), source of this event.

"It can only be bad for any plants that end up in the darkness all day. Even if it's only a single day, the results will be obvious. Oh, the youkai inside? Well, it should have no considerable affect on her. On the contrary, there are more youkai that are weak to sunlight. If they can get by without being exposed to sunlight, then they'd do so. On a bright and clear day like today,

<sup>18</sup>About September 18th, 2001

it's best to stay indoors and read.” (Owner of Kourindou<sup>19</sup>)

To prevent any negative effects on the plants, I warned the youkai of darkness that it might be best to not stay in one place. Rumia did not appear to have a reason for creating darkness, other than to avoid the heat. For those weak against sunlight, if you see darkness moving across the plains, it may be a good idea to take a break inside.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

From page:

17 — A Night of the Music of the Winds: Report on the Experience at the Wind Bell Concert

21 — Earthquake Clouds over Gensokyo. Is an Incident Imminent?

33 — The Biggest Watermelon in the History of Gensokyo

\* \* \*

**Rumia:** What's this piece of paper?

**Aya:** An objective article on you.

**Rumia:** You know, there's been a lot of weird youkai coming into my summer resort paradise lately. That's never happened before.

**Aya:** If you kept floating around like that, you might have been regarded as something dangerous and consequently attacked, so I wrote an article on it.

**Rumia:** But if more things come into the darkness it gets hotter, right?

**Aya:** Then inviting an ice fairy in might make it cooler.

**Rumia:** That would be too much...

**Aya:** By the way, it's too dark and I can't see very well. Could you make it a bit brighter?



Illustration by Masato Takashina

<sup>19</sup>For more details on Rinnosuke, please refer to Season 115's special feature article

*Rumia*

A youkai with the ability to manipulate darkness. It's always dark around her.

*Appearances:* Embodiment of Scarlet Devil

**Rumia:** What're you talking about? I've already let a little light in so I could read this piece of paper.

**Aya:** It's so dark that I can't read my notebook. I can't take notes either.

**Rumia:** Geez, if I let even a little light in it gets really bright.

**Aya:** But I'm surprised that I really can't see anything outside at all. It's a bit difficult to tell where we're flying.

**Rumia:** Of course you can't tell. That's because we can't see.

**Aya:** Huh?

**Rumia:** I bump into trees all the time, but that just goes to show what darkness is all about.

**Aya:** You simply float about without any specific destination in mind?

**Rumia:** Obviously. It's too dark to see, so my view never changes no matter where I go.

**Aya:** But you're the reason why it's too dark to see.

**Rumia:** Oh, is that so?

**Aya:** That is so. By the way, why do you hate sunlight so much?

**Rumia:** You don't hate it?

**Aya:** I enjoy both the day when humans are active, and the night when youkai are active. That is why I have enough material for my articles.

**Rumia:** That's rare. When I'm out in the sunlight, my skin gets all red and I can't think straight, my hair gets all dry so I get split ends, and on top of all that I get really sleepy.

**Aya:** I think that's because you're lacking something.

**Rumia:** But I'm fine in the moonlight. I don't need to make any darkness at night but it's bright enough to see.

**Aya:** You seem to fly around aimlessly in the day, but what do you do at night?

**Rumia:** Nothing much. I just fly around at night, too.

**Aya:** So your lifestyle has no sense of purpose? It feels like there are more youkai who don't feel like learning or working lately. It's quite depressing.

**Rumia:** Attacking humans is a youkai's job.

**Aya:** But are you exerting any effort in attacking humans?

**Rumia:** Lately, humans won't let me attack them. This other time, I got beaten up instead.

**Aya:** It's because of that that you don't maintain your dignity as a youkai. At the very least, you should be blending into the darkness at night and waiting along the roads.

**Rumia:** Ugh, that's too much effort.



*Season 118, 5th of Nagatsuki* <sup>20</sup>

## **Crimson Rainbow and Angel Wings on the Ground**

### **The Scarlet Mist Incident seen from super-high altitude**

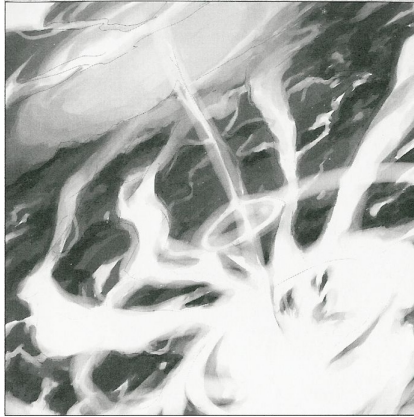


Illustration by alphes

It has already been half a month since Gensokyo was covered in scarlet mist. This incident, which has not been resolved at all, can be described as the large-scale variety that only happens every couple of years. I decided it was time to approach this conundrum from a different angle in hopes of finding a lead.

As you may know, Gensokyo is currently blanketed under an unusually thick mist that even blocks out sunlight at times. Since this mist has a slight scar-

let tint, it is colloquially known as the Scarlet Mist Incident.

Because of this extremely thick mist, nothing is visible from ground level. So, us tengu made use of our natural abilities and observed the mist from a super-high altitude. The photo accompanying this article shows the viewpoint from above.

As a result, we were able to establish that the scarlet mist dispersal is highly irregular as its density is not uniform. The parts with the heaviest concentration has completely blocked out light. It was impossible to see the ground below those areas. However, the most mysterious facet about this mist is that there seems to be a pattern formed by the density variation. . .

There were several contours of thick mist that seemed to generate from a single point, forming a pattern that closely resembled angel wings. The origin point seemed to be near the lake at the foot of the mountain, but it is difficult to tell because the view to ground level is hindered.

Furthermore, aside from these wings, I noticed a bright light coming from somewhere on the ground. When viewed from the air, the light would form a scarlet ring similar to that of a rainbow. I was unable to tell what the light was, but around here, many just call rare happenings mysterious phenomenon.

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<sup>20</sup> September 30th, 2003

Though no one is able to guess what the strange pattern that would have never been seen from the ground and the circular rainbow portend, they must be hints to the identity of whomever is responsible for this incident.

The sunless summer continues. There are surely feelings of dissatisfaction towards this chilling mist that envelops Gen-sokyo, but flight-capable youkai are encouraged to enjoy the spectacle from the sky.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

\* \* \*

## Illusionary Music

### Septette for a Dead Princess

#### Song from Embodiment of Scarlet Devil

A song that tries really hard to get the heart racing. This song's theme is simply my image of Remilia Scarlet. Mysteriously, as the game heads towards the final stage, the songs start having smaller and narrower themes. But with this song, it just keeps developing as it progresses.

When I listen to this song, I see the illusion of a game. It makes me feel like I'm playing an illusionary game. No genre in particular, and I don't understand why it does, but it just makes me feel like I'm playing some kind of game.

I especially like the piano in the second half of the hook. When I was writing the song, its tension just kept rising and let that energy carry me to the end. Nothing wrong with that, right?

\* \* \*

**Remilia:** Why are you showing me this old newspaper?

**Aya:** I wanted to know if there was any meaning behind those hints.

**Remilia:** The pattern in the mist? The scarlet rainbow? I know nothing about them. Actually, I'm surprised you know it was I who released the mist.



Illustration by alphas

Even though the pattern is so obvious?

### *Remilia Scarlet*

Mistress of the Scarlet Devil Mansion. She's a vampire that has lived for around 500 years and has the ability to manipulate fate. She covered Gensokyo with mist in order to block out the sunlight.

*Appearances:* Embodiment of Scarlet Devil, Perfect Cherry Blossom (ending only), Immaterial and Missing Power, Imperishable Night

**Aya:** It would be strange for me not to know. Immediately after the Scarlet Mist Incident, Marisa started coming to your mansion often, and you would make frequent visits to the shrine.

**Remilia:** It's true that I was the one that released the mist, but I didn't create any sort of pattern with it.

**Aya:** ...So you're saying there was no meaning behind it?

**Remilia:** That's what I just said. I don't know anything about what caused it, either. It's probably an unknown natural phenomenon.

**Aya:** Well, what do you think about the light and rainbow in this photograph?

**Remilia:** Hmm, isn't that just the light from when the humans were causing a commotion? That's what it looks like from above.

**Aya:** Those humans always go wild when an incident occurs.

**Remilia:** It's extremely annoying.

**Aya:** Odd that you should be the one to say that. Anyway, let's get back to the subject of the mist.

**Remilia:** The mist was simply a high density of fine particles... It probably bent light into a rainbow just like real mist.

**Aya:** If that's so, why would the rainbow be scarlet?

**Remilia:** My mist is more similar to minuscule jewels than water droplets. That's why all light reflected within turned scarlet.

**Aya:** Oh.

**Patchouli:** Remi's mist is closer to high-density jewels than regular water droplets, so it bends light more than water droplets can. That's why Remi's is called "witching mist". As the wavelength of the refracted light drops past scarlet, it becomes

completely diffused and most of the light is absorbed by the mist. That's why only the straightest scarlet waves remain and the rainbow appears to be scarlet-colored.

**Remilia:** That's right. It's just like I said. Oh, how unusual to see you out of the library. Is it tea time already?

**Patchouli:** Sakuya said that we have an unusual visitor, so I came to look.

**Aya:** Oh, pardon the intrusion. I'm just here to do some interviewing as I thought this subject might make good material for an article.

**Remilia:** I see. Apparently, my mist looks like a pair of angel's wings when seen from the skies. Do you know anything about that, Patch?

**Patchouli:** Let me see that newspaper...

**Aya:** Here you are.

**Remilia:** An angel, they say. Not that I particularly mind being called that.

**Aya:** What a strange devil you are.

**Patchouli:** There isn't anything unusual about this.

**Aya:** Oh, so you know what caused this? I'm impressed!

**Patchouli:** They're Remi's fingers.

**Remilia:** Oh, I see now. It must have been the shape of my hands when I released the mist. Something like this?

**Patchouli:** Just like that.

**Aya:** So you release the mist from your fingertips...



*Season 120, 3rd of Hazuki* <sup>21</sup>

## Strange Reversed Rainbow in the Summer Noon

Even long after the rain stopped...



Illustration by Chiha Ayami

On ○ the ○th, a rainbow was visible above the shrine, but the fact that it was still visible for more than half the day after the rain stopped surprised eyewitnesses. And this was no ordinary rainbow, as the direction of the arc was reversed, so rare sight of a circular rainbow added another layer of surprise.

When the shrine maiden, suspicious of this unnatural rainbow, went to ascertain the cause behind its presence, she found it was the work of three fairies.

The ones who caused this stir were Sunny Milk, Luna Child and Star Sapphire (all fairies). I asked them why and how they created the rainbow.

“Huh? That was Sunny collecting light to heal herself. She bent the light to make it easier to collect, which made a rainbow around her.” (Star Sapphire)

“Really, even though my injuries are much worse... I’m the one who was struck by lightning. Ouchie! Aah, I hope it will be night soon.” (Luna Child)

The whole affair started when they were flying during the previous day’s thunderstorm, and they were directly struck by a lightning bolt. Sunny Milk gathered sunlight to heal her wounds, and that made an upside-down rainbow appear. While still undergoing treatment, Sunny Milk had this to say:

“Ahhhh, this feels good. I’m sorry the other two can’t do like me and heal myself in the sunlight, but sunny days are all about sunbathing. I got scratched up a bit yesterday, thanks to Star, so now I’m taking care of myself.” (Sunny Milk)

It was incredibly bright around Sunny, even radiating heat like the concentrated essence of summer. Being hit by lightning

<sup>21</sup>About September 6th, 2005

is usual fairy stupidity, but producing a rainbow to heal oneself gives a sense of dynamism not seen in common fairies.

Even so, Sunny Milk's injuries were minor. Luna Child was the one who appeared to have received much more damage. For that reason, Sunny Milk's therapy seemed to be nothing more than a regular afternoon nap.

(Aya Shameimaru)

\* \* \*

**Sunny Milk:** It's hot. Really, it feels like summer.

**Aya:** It is, isn't it? Did you recover fully from your earlier injuries?

**Sunny Milk:** I'm fine, thank you. I bathed in the sunlight as much as I could to make up for all the time I couldn't during the rainy season.

**Luna Child:** That's right. I finally recovered, too.

**Aya:** How did you do so?

**Luna Child:** I can recover as long as there is the moonlight.

**Star Sapphire:** These two are both weakened when it rains.

**Sunny Milk:** It's the end of the rainy season so there's no problem now!

**Aya:** Even so, being hit by a lightning bolt must have been disastrous. If I recall correctly, it was because it struck your umbrella, wasn't it?

**Luna Child:** That's what I remember! Star was the one who wanted to bring it, so it's her fault!

**Sunny Milk:** That's right! You noticed that it looked like a thunderstorm was coming, didn't you?



Illustration by Chiha Ayami

*Sunny Milk*  
*Luna Child*  
*Star Sapphire*

They're the fairies of sunlight, moonlight, and starlight, respectively. The three work together to cause mischief.

*Appearances:* Touhou Sangetsusei (Serialized in "Comp Ace", published by Kadokawa Shoten Publ.)

**Star Sapphire:** Huh? Whatever do you mean? Sunny kept insisting we continue with our mischief instead of seeking shelter. I was satisfied when we had tricked the one in black.

**Luna Child:** That's right! It was Sunny's fault! Whenever something terrible happens to me, it's usually because of you!

**Sunny Milk:** It's already summer now, so we'll be fine.

**Luna Child:** Well, I guess it doesn't matter, but I keep having to tell you that the shrine maiden's intuition is our greatest threat.

**Star Sapphire:** Even though we were struck by lightning.

**Aya:** Pardon me. I'm not fully following your conversation, could I perhaps have you explain it so I can understand?

**Sunny Milk:** It's good that mess is done with, but it was still kind of fun, wasn't it?

**Star Sapphire:** It was.

**Luna Child:** I guess so, but I'm always the only one who comes out worse for the wear.

**Star Sapphire:** Your senses are just dull.

**Sunny Milk:** But you still recovered from it. Anyway, why don't we start thinking of our next prank?

**Star Sapphire:** Good, good. That's the spirit.

**Aya:** The three of you are completely ignoring me, aren't you?

**Luna Child:** The next one will go much more smoothly!

**Aya:** This is why fairies cause so much trouble. They're always only thinking of themselves.

**Sunny Milk:** What? So do you want to join in our next prank, too?

**Star Sapphire:** Yes, a prank that will leave that red-and-white shrine maiden black-and-blue.

**Aya:** So you continue with these thoughtless pranks not knowing your own abilities...I don't know if that's because you're fairies or just...

**Sunny Milk:** Well, it's okay. We can do something fun even without your help.

**Luna Child:** Even though you can't do much all by yourself, Sunny.

**Sunny Milk:** You thought I'd get mad at that? Of course, I'm relying on both of your powers, too.

**Star Sapphire:** Hmhmhm. Next time, that shrine maiden won't know what hit her.

**Luna Child:** We won't fail.

**Aya:** Good grief... They don't listen to others at all, and they don't make themselves clear to others, either. Is this the world of fairies?..



*Season 120, 4th of Yayoi* <sup>22</sup>

## Enormous Shooting Star Explodes in Mid-Air

### Meteorite impact crisis avoided

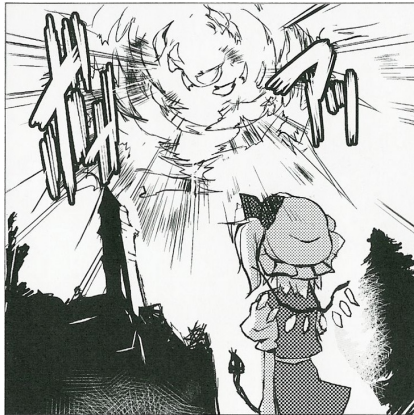


Illustration by Masato Takashina

Around 11:00 PM of ○ the ○th, there was a violent detonation of sound and light in the skies above Gensokyo. The phenomenon was caused by the large explosion of a shooting star. Surprisingly, it was later confirmed that this was an artificially-created explosion. This time, I'd like to explore this the mystery and report on the shocking contents.

The one who made the shooting star explode was Flandre Scarlet (vampire). She's the younger sister of Remilia Scarlet, mistress of the Scarlet Devil Mansion. She explained her reasons for blowing up the meteorite.

"Look, something on the level of a shooting star is a pushover to me. All I have to do is squeeze it a bit. Really, who cares about one little meteorite? Can't you understand that something like meteorites are meaningless to me? I'd be more scared of falling spears. Actually, I'm more afraid of rain. Ah, and manjuu aren't scary at all."

Though her words were mostly incoherent, I was able to understand that she stated destroying the shooting star was simple. I asked her how she blew up the meteorite.

"You know, everything has an 'eye'. If I squeeze that eye, it will go 'kaboom'. Huh? How did I get close enough to the shooting star to squeeze its eye? It was right here. Right in the palm of my hand. And not just the shooting star's eye, but the eye of everything is in my right hand. So all I have to do is give a little squeeze and..."

My investigation almost proved fruitless, but, fortunately, I was able to have a very interesting talk with mistress of the Scarlet Devil Mansion at the end.

<sup>22</sup>About April 1st, 2006

According to her, the meteorite was actually heading directly toward the Scarlet Devil Mansion. In addition, I heard how they planned a meteorite to fall on that very same day. And not just the day, but even the hour of its descent seemed have been fated. Without intervention, not only the Scarlet Devil Mansion but the surrounding area would have suffered enormous damage. Only, the little sister blowing up the meteorite was also part of the plan. That's all I heard from the mistress, but it certainly was a strange tale.

The temperature has risen and flowers are starting to open. It feels like spring has already come. Even as the warmer seasons approach, be careful not to catch a cold.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

From page:

6 — Seven Herbs of Spring Missing? Poor Harvest of Cudweed and Nipplewort

15 — Early Start of Season for Tea With a Bit of Canola Oil

23 — Displacement of Constellation Caused by Mischievous Fairies

\* \* \*

**Flandre:** That article had a weird ending.

**Aya:** I thought the incident itself was much weirder. I'm guessing it was because of the more lighthearted mood of spring.

**Flandre:** Newspapers are useless if they only report the truth though, aren't they?

**Aya:** They're supposed to report nothing but the truth. Newspapers are serious publications.

**Flandre:** Ahh, it definitely springtime now. Will the new tea leaves be ready soon?

**Aya:** I have a feeling that asking you again will be a waste of time, but I'll try anyway. Was it really you who made the meteorite explode through some method?



Illustration by Masato Takashina

**Flandre:** I went “squeeze” and it went “boom.”

### *Flandre Scarlet*

Remilia's sister who holds the power to destroy everything. She usually can't leave the house because of her emotional instability.

*Appearances:* Embodiment of Scarlet Devil

**Aya:** So what Miss Remilia said was the truth?

**Flandre:** About planning for the meteorite? There's no way. That's just how that girl talks.

**Aya:** Really?

**Flandre:** Yeah, that girl acts like she knew everything right from the start. Something about understanding fate or whatever.

**Remilia:** You would do well not to call your elder sister “that girl”.

**Flandre:** Oh, how long have you been standing behind me, elder sister?

**Aya:** Oh, this is great timing. Just talking to the younger sister is...

**Flandre:** Hum, are you perhaps saying that I can't converse well with others?

**Aya:** Yes, that's what I'm saying. You already recognize that yourself, don't you?

**Remilia:** So, what's this about good timing?

**Aya:** About the meteorite explosion the other day...

**Remilia:** Oh, that? I doubt such a minor transgression deserves punishment.

**Aya:** ...What did you mean when you said that it was planned?

**Remilia:** Are you saying you don't understand Japanese even though you write a newspaper full of it?

**Aya:** Pardon me, but I have a hard time believing that you two are speaking Japanese.

**Flandre:** Just how long has it been since we came to Gen-sokyo?

**Remilia:** I'll explain once again. The meteorite was not just planned ahead, someone forced it to fall. It was aimed directly at our mansion.

**Aya:** You call that Japanese?

**Remilia:** Make no mistake, it's old Japanese. As proof that the meteorite's descent was artificial, look at this meteorite fragment right here. It's covered in magical runes, see?

**Flandre:** They sure don't look like Japanese to me.

**Aya:** ...

**Remilia:** See, do you still not understand what is happening?

**Aya:** So, you're saying that someone used this meteorite to attack you, and that you fought back. . .

**Flandre:** Dunno. I'll ask again. What's written on the meteorite isn't in Japanese, right?

**Aya:** It doesn't look Japanese to me, at least.

**Remilia:** No, it's old Japanese from long, long ago. It says "Leo meteor shower."

**Aya:** . . . Oh, my. I wonder how much of that is true.



*Season 117, 2nd of Nagatsuki* <sup>23</sup>

## **The Truth about the Enigmatic History Society**

### **Humans exploring the roots of Gensokyo**



Illustration by Genji Asai

In the Human Village, there are rumors of the existence of a secret society. The society's purported aims are to trace the beginnings of the humans and youkai that reside in Gensokyo and discover its secrets. Since they also investigate in areas where youkai are active, it was said that deaths have also occurred in extreme cases. This time we have contacted the person claiming to be the leader of said organization.

Mr. A<sup>24</sup> (pseudonym) gave a statement on their mission. People nowadays know nothing about things like why youkai live here, what Gensokyo was like when it was formed, what kind of people their ancestors were, and so on. If the omniscient youkai are expelled from Gensokyo and Gensokyo falls under human control, it is absolutely necessary that they know the truths about this land, said he.

Despite this extremely self-centered and human-like opinion, many youkai, including myself, are remaining as spectators rather than taking aggressive action on the group. Some youkai are also offering their frank advice on the matter. I listened to the thoughts of one such youkai, Keine Kamishirasawa (were-hakutaku).

"It's deplorable that some humans have forgotten their fear of youkai and are trying to drive them out of Gensokyo. Currently, there is a state of balance between the humans and the youkai here. In fact, I (being half-human, half-beast) am a personification of that ideal. If that give-and-take balance is destroyed, Gensokyo would collapse overnight. Even if many people now think of youkai as they used to be, these memories can fade in 20 years when the next generation comes about. The youkai

<sup>23</sup>About October 7th, 2002

<sup>24</sup>People related to the school are covered in this article

are no longer rivals. Despite this, the humans have arbitrarily decided to do away with them. Humans should not be searching for past history, but passing history down the generational line instead. That's much more important."

Ms. Keine is half-youkai but is endeared by the humans. She sometimes helps in their daily lives. If dangerous ideas are formed from this society because the humans do not pass their history on to their descendants, she said she has considered opening a history school.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

\* \* \*

## Illusionary Music Merry the Magician Song from Ghostly Field Club

I thought about making this song the theme for one of the members of the Secret Sealing Club, Merry. Not because Merry's a magician or anything like that, but I thought it would make a lot of sense.

This song makes me imagine an occult investigation club at a school similar to the one in the movie *Juvenile*. The feeling like they're playing house somewhere is irresistible. The song itself also feels like I could use it in a game, that's how Touhou-like it is.

There's a strange sound that can be heard behind the song. I put it in there because I think that an occult investigation club would meet in the science room, and that seemed like a science room-ish sound. But what's a science room-ish sound anyway?

\* \* \*

**Aya:** So you opened a history school in the village?

**Keine:** Yes, I did. But it hasn't managed to attract many people. Everyone dislikes schools, it seems.



Illustration by Masato Takashina

### *Keine Kamishirasawa*

Transforms from a human into a hakutaku on the night of the full moon (were-hakutaku). When in human form, has the ability to consume history; when in hakutaku form, holds all of Gensokyo's knowledge and has the ability to create history.

*Appearances:* Imperishable Night

**Aya:** That's surprising. If we knew about something that sounded that interesting, we'll be the first to go see it.

**Keine:** Humans barely get by in their everyday lives. They can't think like easy-going youkai. If they don't work for their food, they starve to death.

**Aya:** Why don't you try opening a school that allows youkai to join as well? That way

it's bound to attract everyone.

**Keine:** Yes, I believe so, but I doubt I'd be able to hold normal lessons like that... I don't want to just draw humans together; I want to teach them. Adding youkai would just defeat that purpose, wouldn't it?

**Aya:** Mmmm, very true. Here's another suggestion, then: why don't you serve sake? Humans love sake.

**Keine:** That wouldn't work for a class. In the end, the humans who want to know history only want to make a world for humans. Maybe normal human beings don't have any interest in history, unfortunately.

**Aya:** There's one group near the shrine that is beginning to change. There's a feeling of "Me First".

**Keine:** I can't do anything about those humans. At this point, isn't much of a difference between them and youkai.

**Aya:** But when it comes to ability, a normal youkai is no match for them.

**Keine:** That reminds me, there are people that don't even

know about the shrine at all. I suppose no one feels the need to go since it's such a long distance away and the route is swarming with youkai...

**Aya:** Is that so?.. Then that would mean you admit the shrine gets almost no visitors.

**Keine:** It's no wonder that the shrine maiden is always complaining about not receiving any offerings at all, but she brought it upon herself. If she was serious about her job, she would be going to the village to advertise herself. Even when she does get to work, the humans usually don't hear about it. I heard that she also befriends youkai up to the point where there are even people who said they had taken over the shrine.

**Aya:** It seems that the shrine maiden's stance is leading to some misunderstanding among the humans. She does seem uncooperative towards humans. In fact, I'd say you're closer to them than she is.

**Keine:** Since I've taken the place of the shrine maiden, the balance in Gensokyo has been preserved. Do you actually record human matters such as this, being a youkai yourself?

**Aya:** All of my newspaper's content and readership come from youkai. Well, it's not like there isn't anything about monster-like humans, but basically this article was meant to be about you. If you weren't there, I couldn't have made the article. For us, humans are just targets for attacking, you know?



*Season 119, 4th of Hazuki* <sup>25</sup>

## Suspicious Fire in the Bamboo Forest

### Sudden bushfire extinguished by two girls



Illustration by Genji Asai

On ○ the ○th at around 7:00 PM, flames rose from the bamboo forest in the vicinity of Eientei. Fortunately, it only spread for roughly 10 meters before being extinguished. There were no victims. The firefight was carried out by the joint efforts of two girls and several rabbits that were at the scene. Without further knowledge about the fire's cause, and considering the possibility of arson, I decided to conduct an investigation.

Fujiwara no Mokou and Kaguya Houraisan (both human), who fought the fire, spoke about the circumstances of the fire's cause and resolution.

"Uh, w-well. . . I don't really know what could've started that fire, but I just happened to be there so I helped put it out. Good thing it didn't turn into a tragedy." (Mokou)

"The fire was near my house. If it had spread that far, that would have been a major problem. Would it not be natural for someone to put out a fire in under such conditions?" (Kaguya)

Both stated they were at the scene of the blaze by coincidence, yet did not know about its cause. With nothing in the vicinity that would naturally start a fire, I can only think of it being either arson or spontaneous combustion. Almost nobody lives in the bamboo forest besides the Eientei residents, and people seldom set foot within. Had the sighting been any later, it would have become a great tragedy.

"M-maybe someone just threw away a cigarette without putting it out? Youngsters these days got no common sense. They will do the craziest things like it was nothing." (Mokou)

"It could have been a discarded yakitori skewer, since this area is a Mecca for yakitori." (Kaguya)

<sup>25</sup>About September 17th, 2004

Being a crow tengu, I found myself wanting to quickly take my leave at hearing the words “Mecca for yakitori”. Therefore, I decided against a more detailed investigation. When thinking it over calmly, I later realized that, besides the fact that yakitori couldn’t possibly have caused a bushfire, the birds that were said to be in the area of the fire scene were actually rabbits. Perhaps this all points to the rabbits being the ones who started the fire? Let’s leave it at that.



Ms. Fujiwara, who was at the bamboo forest.

I don’t know when and where this fire started. More importantly, I recommend to always check twice for any flammable objects around you.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

From page:

31 — One Whole Week of Small-Scale Concerts Across Gensokyo by the Prismriver Sisters

32 — Liquor Thief Strikes the Scarlet Devil Mansion?

Extra — Special Feature: Looking Back on the Eternal Night

\* \* \*

**Mokou:** What a weird article. Once it gets to the “yakitori” part, it barely looks like an article anymore.

**Aya:** I am regretting that.

**Mokou:** A little lacking in our discipline, huh? And what do you want today? Isn’t that fire incident over and done with?

**Aya:** I still can’t keep my mind off of it... By the way, where’s the other person?..

**Mokou:** Kaguya? Eh, I thought that she would say that she’s too busy and doesn’t want to come, so I didn’t call her.

**Aya:** That’s quite an assumption.



Illustration by Chiha Ayami

**Mokou:** But I'm not doing anything else.

**Aya:** Well, either one of you will do. So, the main question is: what was the true cause of this fire?

**Mokou:** A lit cigarette.

### *Fujiwara no Mokou*

A human who became immortal and ageless from drinking the Hourai Elixir left by Kaguya. In a cat-and-dog relationship with Kaguya.

*Appearances:* Imperishable Night

**Aya:** There weren't any other people besides you two, right? And yet you quickly extinguished the fire.

**Mokou:** What are you trying to say?

**Aya:** If you think about it calmly, anyone would reach the conclusion that you were the ones

who started the fire. Given the circumstances, it's the only thing one can conclude.

**Mokou:** A lit cigarette started the fire.

**Aya:** Are you trying to hide something?

**Mokou:** Hmhm. If you stick your beak where it doesn't belong, something... unfortunate might happen to you. Because this place is a... how was it, a Mecca for yakitori, right?

**Aya:** Yakitori! Th-that's it, I remembered the reason that this place is called a Mecca for yakitori...

**Mokou:** Is today's lucky food foie gras?

**Aya:** ...it's because a bird of fire is often seen around here...

**Mokou:** But you gotta be careful about eating too much liver.

**Aya:** And about this bird of fire and the yakitori Miss Kaguya was...

**Mokou:** Hard liver tastes so bad...

**Aya:** ...should I spell it all out?

**Mokou:** Uh-oh, wonder if we'll have another little emergency around here today?

**Aya:** Can you make an emergency happen out of the blue like that!?

**Mokou:** Aren't they always out of the blue? What's weird about that?

**Aya:** Mmph, my mistake. No, that's not it! Could you just give me a straight answer?

**Mokou:** There was never any fire then. There's not a single trace of one in the bamboo forest, so you couldn't have seen anything. It was just a peaceful, uneventful day. That's all there is to it.

**Aya:** I won't allow you to bend the truth like that. First of all, this article has already been published.

**Mokou:** Newspapers have misprints sometimes. If you do your best to recall the paper that article appears in and keep the mistakes under wraps, this incident will simply go away, right?

**Aya:** I will never do such a thing.

**Mokou:** What an inflexible tengu. . . Since your head is so hard, maybe we should roast it a little? Or maybe you are hard all the way to the liver?

**Aya:** Just what kind of human are you, threatening me like that?

**Mokou:** One that has been alive longer than you. Your great senior. So, still wanna try me?



*Season 120, 13th of Kannazuki* <sup>26</sup>

## Night Sparrow's Promising New Operation

### Grilled eel as a substitute for grilled chicken



Illustration by Genji Asai

Recently, a night sparrow has started a profitable new business. Rather than operating a yakitori stand selling grilled chicken, she has opened one selling grilled lamprey eels. One day, a red-lantern stand suddenly appeared on a road that few people travel at night. Lured by the inviting lights, visitors will not find yakitori through the shop's curtain, but skewered lamprey eel grilled to perfection. This peculiar fare is widely discussed among those with a love for the curious.

The stand's operator is Ms. Mystia Lorelei (night sparrow). She started her business in an effort to drive red-light stalls selling yakitori out of business. It has long been thought that lamprey was good for night-blindness, making it a delicacy. However, it's said that the people who walk the road in which her stand is located become night-blind. For that reason, many of the people who take that road and become night-blind rush into the shop, and others come in to prevent such a thing from happening in the first place. These make up a great deal of her customers.

Mystia said the following:

"It doesn't make any sense to me why most night stands serve yakitori. I think there are other foods that are twice as delicious. That 'twice' also goes for sales. So, I was thinking about how a lot of customers around here are night-blind, although that's mostly because of me. That being the case, I thought that maybe lamprey would be pretty popular. Making humans night-blind makes it hard for them to walk, but in that night-blindness they'll see the red light from the lanterns. Faced with no other choice, they'll come and see that there's lamprey, ready-to-eat and great for night-blindness. It's a foolproof plan!"

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<sup>26</sup>About September 16th, 2005

As extra service, you can listen to the shopkeeper sing. One cannot fully appreciate her song unless they've imbibed plenty of sake. Her voice is so wonderful that no one wants to leave once they've sat down. Also, this extra service cannot be refused. Grilled lamprey eel is superior to grilled chicken. It may set a new standard in late-night snacks from now on. I tried some and found it was quite delicious. I highly recommend it.

Please feel free to contact any nearby sparrows or the Bunbunmaru Newspaper for enquiries about the night stand.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

\* \* \*

**Mystia:** Bird of the niiight, song of the niiight, humans in the dark will turn off the liiight...

**Aya:** Pardon the interruption, but I have brought the article I wrote on your stand.

**Mystia:** Huh? Okay, just leave it over there. Dream in the niiight, red in the niiight...

**Aya:** Are you not interested?

**Mystia:** Humans in the dark will be crucifiied... Don't interrupt when I'm in the middle of a song.

**Aya:** You're the first one who hasn't shown any interest in their own article...

**Mystia:** I have more fun singing.

**Aya:** Those are some odd lyrics. Well, I really don't mind. I agree with your anti-yakitori stance.

**Mystia:** Good. Though there are so many kinds of food, why do all red-lantern stands serve yakitori? How did that happen?

**Aya:** By the way, does lamprey really have an effect on night-blindness?

**Mystia:** Of course, because they have so many eyes.

**Aya:** Lamprey eels only have two eyes; the eye-like patterns are the gills. Also, there are 14 different patterns.

**Mystia:** Really? But if it works, there's no problem.

**Aya:** Well, I suppose.



Illustration by Chiha Ayami

*Mystia Lorelei*

Night sparrow whose singing can hinder human judgment and cause night blindness.

*Appearances:* Imperishable Night, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

**Mystia:** Plus, if it doesn't work, I can just release them from the night-blindness and pretend it did. That does the trick!

**Aya:** What? So you're basically swindling your customers?

**Mystia:** Bird of the niight, song of the niiight. . .

**Aya:** Enough singing, please.

**Mystia:** I'm still curing night-blindness either way, so what is the big deal? Or do you want us to be eaten, too?

**Aya:** Are you really a night sparrow?

**Mystia:** Humans in the dark. . .

**Aya:** I said that's enough!

**Mystia:** But, I've had a hard time getting more lampreys recently, so I'm a little worried.

**Aya:** They're already out of season. Some of the more impatient ones are already hibernating.

**Mystia:** That's why I'm serving not only lampreys, but regular eels and loaches.

**Aya:** That's just blatant deception.

**Mystia:** But if it works, there's no problem. Didn't I already say that? Here, it's the skewered grilled lamprey you ordered.

**Aya:** Well, I guess it doesn't matter if it's authentic or not as long as it tastes good. . . Wait! You put a page of my newspaper under it! But I just brought it for you. . .

**Mystia:** Newspapers absorb oil very well. They're convenient.

**Aya:** Aren't you even interested in your own article? I rarely see anyone that isn't.

**Mystia:** I can hardly read those tiny letters.

**Aya:** Could it be that you can't read any letters at all?

**Mystia:** I-it's not that bad. I mean, I'd much rather sing a song to waste time than read a newspaper.

**Aya:** You should read more. Otherwise, you'll just become more and more of a birdbrain.

## **Insects' News Service Starts**

### **To improve the status of insects**

The firefly youkai Ms. Wriggle Nightbug (youkai) has begun sending out huge amounts of insects for her “Insects’ News Service.” She is doing so in an effort to improve the low social status of insects.

What comes to mind when the subject turns to bugs? It seems most do not consider them to be anything beyond sustenance or garbage. Very few recognize them as much else, currently. The leader of the bugs, bothered by the present condition, proposed the idea for this service in order to break the status quo.

The idea behind this service is that, if given the plan and time in advance, a huge number of insects would come and make announcements. For example, if someone asked for a morning call, a huge amount of bugs would gather together on their futon and gently wake them. Winged types of insects and those with many legs may be used, allowing for endless variations.

I asked Ms. Wriggle to speak about this service.

“I want people to realize that bugs are helpful, too. These days, everyone just makes fun of us, and it’s getting annoying. They think even fireflies and pine crickets are just for looking at. When did humans start thinking they are so high and mighty? But if we harm humans, they might exterminate us. . . That’s why if we can prove that we are useful in their lives, I think our social status would improve.”

Ms. Wriggle is managing this new service with her ability to manipulate insects. Users are saying things like “I broke out in a cold sweat and woke up right away” and “With that rustling



Illustration by TOBI

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<sup>27</sup> October 15th, 2004



sound next to your ears, you can hardly contain yourself”, so it seems to have a favorable reputation so far.



Ms. Wriggle (youkai), angered by the status of insects.

However, Ms. Wriggle added afterwards, “We are getting tired of it, so we’ll probably stop soon.” The life of insects is short, so it makes sense that the life of the Insects’ News Service would also be short.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

From page:

2 — Gensokyo’s Mysterious Vibrations  
9 — Old Tea Warning: Tainted Tea Causing Sporadic Food Poisoning  
29 — Outbreak in Late-Night Demon-Helping Rallies

**We buy and sell all kinds of used furniture, art, and household goods. Antique shop Kourindou, located right outside the Forest of Magic.**

\* \* \*



Illustration by Chiha Ayami

**Wriggle:** What? Were we doing something like this?

**Aya:** Are you talking about your article? Didn’t I interview you just the other day for it?

**Wriggle:** I don’t remember.

**Aya:** I wonder how small the brains of insects are?

**Wriggle:** It’s not like that, we just get rid of any old information once it has served its job. Otherwise, we wouldn’t be able to provide the Insect News Service, since we would forget our customers’ schedules.

**Aya:** Oh, so you remember after all.

**Wriggle:** I don’t remember.

**Aya:** I feel that insects had more power in the past than they do now. They’d act as parasites, and they had stronger poisons... There were quite a few that could even defeat youkai with a single sting.

**Wriggle:** So the ones now are weak?

**Aya:** They are. In the past many poisonous bugs would battle, and the last one standing would gain magical powers. That was a dreadful thing. If you compare it to now, you're not much more powerful than a non-youkai insect. So, you're all show, aren't you?

**Wriggle:** You don't have to go that far. Now I'm all sad... Ooh...

**Aya:** But my crow loves insects.

**Wriggle:** Ack, my natural enemy, even here...

**Aya:** That's why humans call them beneficial birds.

**Wriggle:** Let me get a word in! Although I don't have much positive to say, especially with the number of bugs decreasing over the last few years...

**Aya:** Isn't that good? Oh, but if the number of bugs decreases, the birds would be in a bit of trouble, too.

**Wriggle:** Getting eaten's a problem, but... The bigger problem is insecticide!

**Aya:** Insecticide? Oh, that useful chemical created by humans?

**Wriggle:** Thanks to that stuff, lots of my cute bugs have shriveled up and died.

**Aya:** They're pretty weak.

**Wriggle:** Are you trying to say that bugs in the past would not have died? These attacks are on a whole different level.

**Aya:** What are you talking about? Isn't this your chance?

**Wriggle:** What chance?

**Aya:** If you gather together the bugs that survive the insecticide, you make new generations that will resist it. That way you can build up their numbers for a while.

**Wriggle:** Mm-hmm, mm-hmm...

**Aya:** But in the meantime, the humans can make stronger, more potent insecticide.

**Wriggle:** ...

**Aya:** And then you gather up all the unaffected bugs, and increase their number again, and if you keep doing that...

**Wriggle:** Why don't they just make a completely lethal insecticide?

### *Wriggle Nightbug*

A youkai who has an ability to control insects. Since she is also an insect herself, she is vulnerable to coldness and insecticide.

*Appearances:* Imperishable Night

**Aya:** The humans have to make sure the insecticide won't hurt themselves, too, so there's a limit to how strong they can make it. Once that limit is reached, bugs will no longer be defeated by humans.

**Wriggle:** I see. It sounds like it would take a long time, so I should get to work...

**Aya:** But please feed the birds, too.

## Ice Fairy Eaten by Giant Toad

### Severe punishment for fairy whose prank went too far

On the ○th of ○ at around noon, a prank-loving fairy was eaten by a giant toad. She somehow escaped, and suffered no major injuries.

The victim is an ice fairy, Cirno (fairy). It seems that while she was enjoying herself by freezing frogs in a swamp, she was discovered and eaten by a giant toad that was nearly the size of two humans. Since she simply reaped what she sowed, the giant toad was not at fault.



Illustration by alphes

“Geez, why the heck was there a giant toad in such a small swamp?! If it was anyone else but me, they wouldn’t have been able to get away.”

The instant the victim was devoured, she chilled the insides of the toad which surprised it enough to spit her out. The giant toad was the master of that small swamp and, after hearing that a fairy was freezing the frogs there, decided to punish her. The fairy had this to say about her game of freezing frogs:

“If immediately I freeze the frogs all the way, they won’t die, and when they thaw, it’s like nothing happened. I’m not playing, but training my ice powers. I’m definitely not doing it because frozen frogs are cute, or because their croaking gets on my nerves, or because I get excited when I juggle them since they might break if I drop one.”

Fairies generally enjoy pranks, so there are many cases in which they receive severe punishment for such pranks. The victim in this case is one such fairy. However, most fairies only try to prank those stronger than themselves. Even if she is always bullied, perhaps most would see that taking out her frustrations on weak, little frogs is somewhat pathetic.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

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<sup>28</sup>About July 6th, 2005



**Interested in working as a maid at the Scarlet Devil Mansion?**

**Uniforms and three meals a day included. No afternoon naps, holidays, or salary. Hot-blooded people are welcome.**

**Enquire the Scarlet Devil Mansion's Chief Maid, Sakuya Izayoi**

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Illustration by Masato Takashina  
(The headline reads "Ice Fairy Defeats Despicable Giant Toad!")

### *Cirno*

A mischievous fairy at the lake. Has the ability to manipulate cold.

*Appearances:* Embodiment of Scarlet Devil, Perfect Cherry Blossom, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

**Cirno:** What the heck is this!?

**Aya:** Gensokyo's fastest source of accurate information, the Bunbunmaru Newspaper.

**Cirno:** No, not that! I mean the article! You made it look like I'm the bad guy here!

**Aya:** The content was based on objective views.

**Cirno:** Grrrrr! You've never been eaten by a giant toad! What do you know!?

**Aya:** The only things that the giant toad has ever eaten would be... flies and you.

**Cirno:** Flies...

**Aya:** Yes, flies. An insect that doesn't think about the annoyance they cause, flapping their wings so busily as they buzz around.

**Cirno:** I don't buzz around!

**Aya:** Oh, but I was talking about flies.

**Cirno:** A-anyway, couldn't you have made a cooler article about me? Like, "Ice Fairy Defeats Despicable Giant Toad!"

**Aya:** When did you defeat it? I don't write lies, even if it makes money.

**Cirno:** I ain't gonna make you money!

**Aya:** Then all the more reason not to.

**Cirno:** But this article just makes me seem really lame. . .

**Aya:** I'm sure anyone who saw it happen would've thought you looked extremely lame.

**Cirno:** At least make the article cool!

**Aya:** If you succeed in being eaten in a cool way, then I will.

**Cirno:** Then change the normal frogs part to giant toads.

**Aya:** I refuse. If it bothers you so much why don't you go and defeat the giant toad?

**Cirno:** It was an even match! When I ran away I completely chilled its stomach, enough to cause more than stomach problems!

**Aya:** I have a direct testimony from the giant toad who said that it only surprised him and that no actual harm was done.

**Cirno:** You don't even know what it feels like to have your eyeballs pushed in while you're being swallowed by a giant toad!

**Aya:** I don't think anyone would want to know that feeling.

**Cirno:** Freezing toads and bringing them back to life is a high-class technique!

**Aya:** It isn't useful at all.

**Cirno:** Eeeeeeeek!

**Aya:** You're really just an underdog. . . or rather, underfairy, that lost to a giant toad.

**Cirno:** What are you trying to do by spreading that all over Gensokyo!? If you stayed quiet about it, nobody would know!

**Aya:** Now, now. They say rumors between humans and youkai only last 75 years. I don't think you'll be laughed at for too long.

**Cirno:** You're the one that started it!

**Aya:** I just tell everyone the truth of daily happenings in Gensokyo.

**Cirno:** There should be more than enough fairies being punished in the first place! Why only me!?

**Aya:** That day was really peaceful, so there wasn't anything else happening. As I was worn out from flying everywhere, I saw you sticking your head out of a giant toad's mouth. You should consider yourself lucky that there was an article on you at all.

**Cirno:** I'm actually lucky then? All right!

**Aya:** Yes, lucky.

*Season 119, 4th of Mutsuki* <sup>29</sup>

## Audacious Donation Fraud

**Have you been deceived thinking it could never happen to you?**



Illustration by alphas

As of late, there has been a widespread donation scam. In her admittedly clever scheme, the fraudster would boldly go from home to home, saying “I’ve come to collect offerings for the shrine”. Humans and youkai, thinking that it would be nice to donate to the shrine, were all unwittingly caught in her scam. However, as no one has realized they were swindled, no one has come forth with charges against the perpetrator. Thus, it is currently not considered a crime.

We successfully contacted the trickster while she was in the process of collecting more “donations”. The con artist is Tewi Inaba (youkai rabbit). This is what she has to say about her scam:

“It’s not a scam! Aren’t donations things that make good things happen, even if they are little offerings? That’s what I promise everyone when I greet them!”

It is said that she has the ability to bring a little good fortune to any human she meets. This is why the ones who had their money taken still have yet to realize what happened.

Also, I have interviewed the victims of this scam to see what they have to say.

“Offerings? Well, I wondered when the shrine had started coming around to collect money, but I felt sorry for her so I donated some.” (Ms. S, human)

“Oh, yeah. I thought it was a good idea so I pitched in a bit.” (Ms. M, human)

“So what’s an offering?” (Ms. A, magician)

It seems that there were no qualms giving out these donations. In the midst of this, the shrine maiden Reimu Hakurei, recipient of genuine offerings, said this:

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<sup>29</sup>About February 12th, 2005

“What did you say?! My shrine’s offertory box only collects leaves, why does that fake one get money?! And why hasn’t anyone complained about this?! This could affect the shrine’s reputation!”

It’s hard to imagine that anything would happen if you put money into the shrine’s offertory box, but if you put money into the fraudulent donation box, you might become a little luckier. It’s no wonder why nobody complained. Maybe it’s time to reconsider the role of offering money.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*



The victims showed no displeasure at being conned in particular. Ms. S (right) and Ms. M (left) Both are humans.

\* \* \*

**Aya:** That was a particularly clever scam of yours.

**Tewi:** No, I told you it’s not a scam.

**Aya:** But you lied and cheated others out of their money. Isn’t that the definition of a scam?

**Tewi:** Call it whatever you want, but you know? I have a key policy.

**Aya:** A policy?

**Tewi:** I don’t lie just for my own fortune, but for those I trick, too. If you want bring good fortune to someone, you’ve got to lie.

**Aya:** I don’t condone lies. I only write articles about truth.

**Tewi:** Wow, that’s just fantastic. But who gains by that?

**Aya:** It’s not about loss or gain.

**Tewi:** But I think it is. You don’t hurt anyone if you can lie well. Even if they know it’s a lie, it’s not like they’re gonna get angry, they might even thank me.

**Aya:** But lying itself is bad.

**Tewi:** It doesn’t look like you want to donate to me.



Illustration by Tateha



### *Tewi Inaba*

A rabbit who became youkai after living a long life. She has the ability to give humans good luck.

*Appearances:* Imperishable Night, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

**Aya:** I won't be fooled so easily, you know.

**Tewi:** Ah, that's too bad. Even if you donate a little, a small blessing would be waiting for you.

**Aya:** That's not possible.

**Tewi:** Didn't you see the happy faces on the people who donated? Well, it's not the kind of luck that can change someone's life, but can't you feel there was a little more fortune in their lives?

**Aya:** ...

**Tewi:** Well, that's my ability. The fact that there was fortune itself not a lie.

**Aya:** ...How much money is "a little"?

**Tewi:** It's the thought that matters.

**Aya:** Oops, you almost had me there. But... Something interesting might happen if I donate just a little bit, even if it was a trick.

**Tewi:** Here you go, the donation box of good fortune.

**Aya:** I'm donating, but I know I'm being tricked, okay?

**Tewi:** Luck would visit those whose thoughts weigh more.

**Aya:** I don't need that much luck, I'm fortunate enough as I am now.

**Tewi:** Good for you, then. But if you donate, you definitely will be a little luckier, I think.

**Aya:** I don't believe it one bit, but that's great.

**Tewi:** You'd definitely get involved in something big when you go home.

**Aya:** Is that... supposed to be a good thing?

**Tewi:** Why wouldn't it be? Well, rather than a good thing, it's more like something fortunate.

**Aya:** I can think of a few things that would be fortunate to me...

**Tewi:** You can't fault me for lying when you find luck where bad things happen.

**Aya:** That's a harsh thing to say.

**Tewi:** Finally, I'll tell you the truth. Most of this entire conversation was made up of lies.

**Aya:** !? Right from the very beginning?

## Rabbit Horn League Protests Shrine Banquet

**Rabbit stew is annual tradition, says shrine maiden**

On ○ the ○th, the Rabbit Horn League protested the use of rabbit in the stew served at the shrine banquet. Talks remained distant as the shrine responded to the protest: “Of course I’m using rabbit. It’s rabbit stew!”

The incident began at the moment when youkai rabbits crashed the shrine banquet. Upon spotting and tasting the delicious-looking stew, they realized the meat in it was rabbit and reported this to the leader of the Rabbit Horn League, Reisen Udongein Inaba (rabbit).



Illustration by Genji Asai

“It’s unthinkable that they’re using rabbit meat in a stew. How can something so uncivilized still be allowed? We of the Rabbit Horn League will continue to fight until rabbit meat is removed from the menu for good!” said Reisen.

In response, the shrine’s Reimu Hakurei said:

“What’s so uncivilized about rabbit meat? People have been eating it for ages. Or are they saying the rabbits themselves are uncivilized? Well, I suppose running around fields for no reason might be considered that.”

Her stance was clear that she would not stop the use of rabbit meat.

The Rabbit Horn League, led by the moon rabbit Reisen Udongein Inaba, is a group of youkai rabbits working to form a rabbit utopia. Handling all the non-youkai rabbits is Manager Tewi Inaba (rabbit). Manager Tewi had this to say:

“They’re ordinary, helpless rabbits. Humans are gluttonous pigs who’ll eat anything, so I guess it’s simply unavoidable that a few will get eaten. If they want humans to stop eating them, they’ll have to look a lot more charming. You can’t eat something cute, right?”

<sup>30</sup>About December 3rd, 2005

The manager is considering self-defense measures for the rabbits rather than trying to stop the humans who eat them, so there are dissenting opinions even within the Rabbit Horn League. The opinion of the regular rabbits are unknown.

At the moment, both parties have agreed to a compromise, in which chicken stew will also be made available whenever rabbit stew is offered.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

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## Guide to Notable Locales in Gensokyo

### Eientei

There is an expansive bamboo forest enveloped in perpetual mist limiting visibility. The bamboo grows so quickly, it is useless to use them as landmarks. Because of that, if one loses their way, they may never arrive at their destination.

It there is a large, old mansion within the bamboo forest, as if hiding to avoid the public eye. This old mansion is called Eientei. There isn't a single sign of wear in this traditional Japanese mansion, as it is eternal and unchanging.

When visiting Eientei, only the faintest amount of light reaches the bottom, so everything is dark, and the only sounds that can be heard are the bamboo leaves rustling in the wind. You cannot tell if it's day or night, or if your friend is present or absent. It is as though this forest has taken on the illusion of existing outside the flow of time and history.

In the constant bustle of Gensokyo, Eientei is a quiet place, protected by the bamboo forest. It appears that here is a place where nothing happens and nothing changes. Those that visit experience an unusual sensation. Incidents and unusual occurrences are like knots in everyday life. Also, many are familiar with the feeling of time coming to a stop during extraordinary events. History ignores the flow of time during everyday life and records the flow of time during unusual circumstances. The dates of historic accomplishments can easily be stated. That is because the time when it happened has been frozen. As proof of this, it is impossible to succinctly state what happens when everyday life occurs.

Eientei is a place where the unusual happens on a regular basis. Once of the residents of this mansion is a lunar rabbit, a supplement from the moon. As everything here is unusual, the flow of time has been flatly denied. For that reason, the head of the household named this mansion Eientei, meaning “mansion of eternity”. Those who like the unusual may enjoy an occasional visit. However, they must be able to find their way through the bamboo forest first.

(Aya Shameimaru)

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**Aya:** It seems you’ve compromised on having them offer chicken stew as well, though I find that a bit questionable.

**Reisen:** Humans are so stubborn! We keep repeating ourselves, but they don’t listen!

**Aya:** That shrine maiden is deceptively inflexible, isn’t she?

**Reisen:** She adheres far too much to tradition and custom. I’m sure there are plenty of other kinds of food they can stew instead of rabbit.

**Aya:** There’s potatoes, mushrooms, and wild vegetables.

**Reisen:** Or poultry.

**Aya:** You’re saying that on purpose, aren’t you. You think I’m a bird.

**Reisen:** You’re not?

**Aya:** No, I am! I am!

**Reisen:** They can eat their fill of poultry, for all we care. Yakitori is fine by us.

**Aya:** Changing the subject, why are you called the Rabbit Horn League? Rabbits don’t have horns.



Illustration by Tateha

### *Reisen Udongein Inaba*

A moon rabbit who escaped from the moon when Earthlings began an invasion. Her red eyes drive humans mad.

*Appearances:* Imperishable Night, Phantasmagoria of Flower View



**Reisen:** And because we don't, they are a constant ideal. It means a group of rabbits who are never satisfied with the status quo, but who always strive for improvement.

**Aya:** I see. And here I was sure it meant a group that horned in noisily on just about everything.

**Reisen:** I think I'll make crow stew tomorrow.

**Aya:** By the way, how were you able to reach a compromise with offering chicken stew?

**Reisen:** There was nothing to eat.

**Aya:** Oh, so you're taking part in the banquet?

**Reisen:** We're protesting since we're taking part but have nothing to eat.

**Aya:** You seem to be losing the focus of your protest...

**Reisen:** Who wants a banquet with nothing to eat? Or are you saying it's fine as long as there's alcohol?

**Aya:** It depends on the mood and the alcohol, though I like some snacks with my drink.

**Reisen:** Mind you, we're leaving management of the Earth rabbits to Tewi, so if she says it's unavoidable, that's it.

**Aya:** Rabbit camaraderie is weaker than I thought.

**Reisen:** She's particularly cold.

**Aya:** What about you?

**Reisen:** I'm the only moon rabbit, so I don't have that much camaraderie.

**Aya:** And yet you formed the Rabbit Horn League? Even if there isn't that much camaraderie or anything like that, carrying on so coldly just seems wrong.

**Reisen:** Well, the Earth rabbits won't listen to me at all!

**Aya:** You're quite the leader.

**Reisen:** Anyway, I'm the only moon rabbit, and too few Earth rabbits understand human language...

**Aya:** That's true enough, but I still can't believe you formed a league.

**Reisen:** That was just a decision between me and Tewi. Since rabbits only follow her orders, almost everything's left to her.

**Aya:** I see. So what's Tewi like?

**Reisen:** Apparently, she was controlling rabbits long before I got to Earth, but... well, I don't really know any details.

**Aya:** I can't believe you'd make such a senseless, suspicious rabbit your subordinate.

*Season 119, 4th of Nagatsuki* <sup>31</sup>

## Mysterious Pattern in Flowerbed

### A new kind of crop circle?

On ○ the ○th, a strange pattern suddenly appeared in the garden of the Scarlet Devil Mansion. The figure of a five-pointed star was visible among the flowers, and people began to whisper about crop circles at the manor. However, the pattern wasn't formed by flattened flora, but rather the flowers forming the pattern had all turned white, as if a group of white flowers had sprung up among the crimson ones.



Illustration by alphas

People are saying this strange state of affairs at the Scarlet Devil Mansion is an example of the much-rumored crop circle. Crop circles are a highly mysterious phenomena where geometric patterns appear in fields. However, nobody had ever seen one before, so it had remained a mere rumor.

The mistress of the Scarlet Devil Mansion, Remilia Scarlet (vampire), had this to say about the phenomenon:

“Crop circles are a good omen, aren't they? The white star in a flower field is surely a symbol of victory, no?”

It's unclear whose victory it's meant to represent, but it certainly leaves a positive impression. Crop circles certainly do seem to be good omens of sorts.

The individual who cares for the garden in question is the Scarlet Devil Mansion's gatekeeper, Hong Meiling (youkai). I asked her about this incident, as well.



Miss Remilia, apparently feeling no aggrievement.

“Is it really a crop circle? It doesn't really look like one to me... I was so scared at first because I thought she'd get mad again. I'm in charge of taking care of the garden, after all. Even

<sup>31</sup>About October 17th, 2004

if she told me to change it back, I don't have the slightest idea how to do that, or how it happened, so I'm so glad the mistress likes it."

Even now, the mansion's garden has a white star formed by the flowers that have changed colors. The star-shaped crop circle makes the brilliant scarlet flower garden even more amazing to look at. Nobody knows who did this or why, but some posit that this is the work of aliens.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

\* \* \*

### Illusionary Music

#### The Fantastic Tales from Tono

#### Song from Perfect Cherry Blossom

An oriental-styled fantasy piece with a melody that sounds like you've heard it before, but somehow forgotten about. Actually, I think this piece sounds very cute. The piano's melody expresses ephemerality, and the wind instrument's melody feels like something you'd hear at a children's festival.

Young children and customs passed down through history come together in a very cute and ephemeral way. Although it's hard to say if ephemeral things are cute (maybe if they are jumping around).

Since it doesn't feel very dark or heavy, any unpleasant feelings you may have had are gone, as if they had been carried away by the song. Something like that.

\* \* \*

**Meiling:** Well, the mistress finally got tired of it, so she told me to change the garden back.

**Aya:** So the star pattern is still there?

**Meiling:** I don't even know how to make flowers change colors, so there's nothing I can do.

**Aya:** Why don't you try telling her that?

**Meiling:** But that won't do me any good.

**Aya:** Why don't you try tricking her somehow until they wilt?

**Meiling:** There's no way I could do that.

**Aya:** Well, she'll get angry if you don't do anything, right? You should just tell her it's impossible.

**Meiling:** How could I when she already knows I have no idea what to do? The mistress just likes teasing people... Boo-hoo...

**Aya:** In any case, I wonder what made that pattern.

**Meiling:** Yes, that's the main problem here, but nobody will touch it. They all just say how beautiful or interesting it is. I'm the only one losing sleep over it, since I'm the gardener here.

**Aya:** Everyone calls it a crop circle, but...

**Meiling:** But it's not even shaped like a circle. It's kind of suspicious how it just appeared suddenly out of nowhere, too. It happened in the time it took me to make my rounds around the perimeter of the mansion. It was only about thirty minutes.

**Aya:** Was it really that short?

**Meiling:** Probably.

**Aya:** You didn't stop for a nap en route, did you?

**Meiling:** I-I don't slack off!

**Aya:** The white star is certainly out of the ordinary. Still, it's hard to believe it's the work of aliens, like some people claim.

**Meiling:** Oh? If you're not as smart as the aliens, I bet you'd think they wouldn't do it.

**Aya:** But what could the aliens be trying to communicate with just a star?

**Meiling:** They're trying to communicate? Is that even what crop circles do? I've never even heard of them before, so I don't know much about them...

**Patchouli:** They say that crop circles are used in the outside world to breathe new life into an old village. Supposedly



Illustration by Masato Takashina

### *Hong Meiling*

She is the gatekeeper of the Scarlet Devil Mansion, and is able to control Qi.

*Appearances:* Embodiment of Scarlet Devil, Immaterial and Missing Power

somebody thought of it as a way to bring tourists to old rural towns with nothing but farmland.

**Meiling:** Oh, Miss Patchouli, it's so unusual to see you out here.

**Patchouli:** You still haven't turned it back to normal? Remi will get mad, you know. In any case, nobody really knows what crop circles are. They say they might also be formed by something rising up to the surface from underground.

**Aya:** You seem to know a lot about crop circles.

**Patchouli:** However, this star-shaped crop circle is an experiment of mine. I based it from the rumors.

**Meiling:** HUUUUUH!? What did you say!?



## The Great Out-of-Season Setsubun Festival at the Scarlet Devil Mansion

“By the way, what is Setsubun?”, — asked maids

On ○ the ○th, even though summer is approaching, an extremely tardy Setsubun festival was held at the Scarlet Devil Mansion located on the bank of the lake. Because there are no oni in Gensokyo, Setsubun hasn’t been celebrated in a long time. For that reason, this event was also unknown amongst the maids. To find out why this custom had been revived so suddenly, I decided to find someone in the midst of the excitement who could tell me.



Illustration by alphas

The Scarlet Devil Mansion was already filled with roasted beans. Someone said that Setsubun entailed throwing them at people’s shadows and chaos ensued. The mistress of Scarlet Devil Mansion, Remilia Scarlet (vampire), preferred not to partake in the bean throwing, instead eating Ehomaki rolls.

“I just cannot handle the roasted beans, since they never fail to burn my hand... I wanted to participate as it seemed like everyone was enjoying themselves by throwing them around, but after that, I forbade them to throw any at me. They sting whenever one strikes me.”

The one who planned this event was Patchouli Knowledge (witch). I asked her why she arranged this out-of-season Setsubun festival so suddenly.

“Out of season? What are you saying? Is there a specific season for Setsubun? The word itself means “the interval between seasons” so this time between spring and summer seems perfectly suitable. This year we decided to try to strengthen measures against the oni, and Setsubun is the first step. As I lack material regarding the ritual, I’m somewhat dubious of the

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<sup>32</sup>About August 19th, 2004

fine details. However, the fundamental thing is to throw beans, which I have left to the maids.” (Patchouli)

I then inquired why she so suddenly decided to carry out a counter-measure plan against the oni.

“An ounce of beans is worth a pound of oni, as I believe the saying goes.”

The Scarlet Devil Mansion seems to have enough beans for an entire horde of oni. A long time has already passed since the oni clan withdrew from Gensokyo. By holding these odd Setsubun festivals, they may never return. This outcome seems obvious to the tengu. The reason being that as of now, we tengu are the ones most familiar with oni.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

\* \* \*



Illustration by Masato Takashina

**Patchouli:** But the undeniable fact is that they were here.

**Aya:** Is that so? It seems more like wild conjecture to me.

**Patchouli:** Perhaps it is.

**Aya:** Is throwing beans really effective?

**Patchouli:** Clean-up was rather painstaking.

**Aya:** It must have been.

**Patchouli:** At least I had decided from the start to prohibit it in the library.

**Aya:** Frankly, I think you went too far. Really, all you had to do was say “Oni stay outside!” two or three times and that would’ve been enough.

**Patchouli:** Hmmmm... But I feel repetition strengthens the effect.

**Aya:** And I think the way everyone was throwing beans at each other was also slightly missing the point.

**Patchouli:** That’s fine, because the some of maids pretended to be oni, just as the practice entails. Only Remi could not join as she was unable to touch the beans.

**Aya:** It seems vampires are also weak against roasted beans.

**Patchouli:** Remi was rather bored by the events, as she only ate the Ehomaki rolls.

**Aya:** That really doesn't have much to do with oni...

**Patchouli:** You seem to know a great deal about Setsubun. Why is that?

**Aya:** A long time ago, tengu and oni were friendly with each other. That's why we know the most about anything relating to the oni, such as Setsubun, in all of Gensokyo.

**Patchouli:** If so, do you understand why you throw beans to drive out oni?

**Aya:** I've heard of things like the five phases and the Demon Gate...

**Patchouli:** No, that's not it. You've also been affected by the humans' distorted interpretations. The truth is amazingly simple.

**Aya:** Huh?

**Patchouli:** It was a game that the oni made up as satire against humans. The aspect that oni hate most about humans is their deceitfulness, so they brought roasted beans with them.

**Aya:** What does that have to do with anything?

**Patchouli:** The act of scattering the beans was originally connected to farming and making buds grow. By setting fire to the beans beforehand, no sprouts would emerge from the soil. Which means that the humans were "falsely" farming... so...

**Aya:** They were using deception themselves in order to make the humans do so as well.

**Patchouli:** So perhaps from the start, the oni determined their own weakness.

**Aya:** Why did they need to do something like that?

**Patchouli:** That is because they were too strong. Even though they have a genuine fatal weakness, the oni made up some their own before it could be discovered. They certainly have a strange weakness for such powerful beings.

**Aya:** And the vampires' weakness to roasted beans are maybe just to hide their weakness to sunlight?

**Patchouli:** Their weakness to sunlight might be covering for something else. Remi can still walk around outside with a

### *Patchouli Knowledge*

Remilia's friend, who has been a witch for approximately one hundred years. She suffers from asthma, and usually shuts herself away in the library. Mainly good at spiritual magic.

*Appearances:* Embodiment of Scarlet Devil, Immaterial and Missing Power, Imperishable Night, Phantasmagoria of Flower View

parasol, after all.

**Aya:** You are also unexpectedly weak to sunlight. It doesn't look like you've been outside for a long time.

**Patchouli:** Sunlight damages books and my hair so I detest it.

## The Midwinter Moon's Great Explosion

### A flurry of moon fragments

On ○ the ○th, I became aware that the moon had suddenly and silently exploded. Although this was a major event, it occurred so late at night that most people never realized it happened.

The moon quietly scattered out across the sky, and its countless glimmering fragments descended to the Earth. Before long, the fragments thinned out like mist, and then gathered together again to reform the full moon. Since this happened silently over a very short period of time in the middle of the night, it was a stroke of the greatest fortune to bear witness to this fantastically unreal spectacle. Setting out to find out what had happened, I was able to gather enough information to allow me to make contact with the individual who caused the moon to explode.

That individual was Suika Ibuki (oni). She appeared to be extraordinarily drunk, but she spoke quite lucidly when I interviewed her about this incident.

"The moon? Ah, that's just a bit of a threat. Everyone looked like they were havin' so much fun, saying 'oni, stay outside' over and over again, so I thought I'd give 'em a little warnin'. Sure surprised the fire out of ya, didn't it?"

Indeed it did, as I'm sure anyone would be. I then asked her how she'd made the moon explode.

"Just what do you think the moon up in the sky is? Everyone sees that big, round shiny thing and thinks there must be somethin' up there, right? That's just silly. The truth is much more mind-blowin' than that. You can almost never see the real moon, 'cause its appearance is deadly to humans. You can only see the moon's reflection. And the things that make reflections,



Illustration by alphas

<sup>33</sup>About February 28th, 2006



like water or glass, can all be broken, right? So since the moon you see in the sky is just being reflected in the heavens, all you gotta do is tear the heavens apart!”

I understood how she’d broken the moon, but it was unclear how she’d managed to shatter the heavens. Still, the power of the oni defies imagination. They can probably shatter the heavens with their eyes closed and one hand tied behind their back.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

**Tengu’s Rice with Barley — for a nutritional supplement, recovery, or a snack for adults**

\* \* \*

## Illusionary Music

### Ancient Temple of the Netherworld

Song from Ghostly Field Club

I really don’t... understand this song very well. I don’t remember much from when I was composing it. But I am certain that main part of the song is the swelling composition in the ending (around the 3-minute mark). I enjoyed it so much that I don’t think much about the intro or the melody.

This song really doesn’t make me see anything until the end. But even then, all I can recall is hearing something desolate.

Because I didn’t write about this song immediately after I composed it either, I can’t recall anything about my mental state at that time. However, being able to judge just by the song’s title and the song itself from an objective viewpoint is rather interesting.

\* \* \*

**Suika:** Fill ’er up!

**Aya:** You’ve been drinking all day now.

**Suika:** All day? Look, I’ve been drinking non-stop for **centuries**. The last time I was sober is ancient history.

**Aya:** I suppose it’s too late to say that drinking that much might be bad for your health...

**Suika:** Wanna have a drinkin' match?

**Aya:** Please, I'm not foolish enough to get into a drinking match with an oni.

**Suika:** Aw, c'mooooonnnnnnn. You're a tengu, right? Tengu are pretty big drinkers, toooooo.

**Aya:** Ohoho, I'm on the job at the moment. Still, I found a nice food stand recently. Would you like to go for a drink afterwards?

**Suika:** Food cart? They got yakitori?

**Aya:** Grilled eel, actually. Their fried skewers go great with alcohol.

**Suika:** That don't sound half-bad. Parties are great, but maybe it's nice to drink quietly once in a while.

**Aya:** This cart isn't the quietest place, I'm afraid. The owner sings a lot.

**Suika:** If she's so noisy I can't drink, I'll just make her shut up.

**Aya:** Hm, hearing that from an oni makes me feel sorry for the poor bird. Still, I was very surprised. That matter of the moon is one thing, but I didn't think there were any oni left in Gensokyo.

**Suika:** Oh, you know, I just decided to come back since it's been so long. I'm the only one who came, though.

**Aya:** Gensokyo might become even more lively with an oni around.

**Suika:** I was pretty sad to see the tengu had lost their hold on the world.

**Aya:** Please, you're exaggerating. The tengu are still plenty powerful. Besides, the oni have always been stronger.

**Suika:** You tengu are all talk, same as ever. Yer always so humble to anyone stronger than you, but act all tough towards the weak. Yer all really strong, but go easy on everyone, and



Illustration by Tateha

### *Suika Ibuki*

One of the oni, who have left Gensokyo. Light-hearted and fond of alcohol. She was unhappy about drinking parties decreasing owing to Yuyuko, so she made Marisa and her friends hold parties over the course of three days.

*Appearances:* Immaterial and Missing Power

ya play dumb even though yer really smart. Just a buncha sly foxes.

**Aya:** I am a crow tengu, thank you very much. But still, we tengu really aren't as strong as we used to be. We're merely simple rumormongers, nowadays.

**Suika:** Hm, I wonder. Well, I see y'all still love gossip as much as ya did in the old days.

**Aya:** And I see the oni are still amazing. To have such power to be able to shatter the heavens...

**Suika:** Hehehe, that's just a little trick. I'm just good at splitin' and gatherin' things.

**Aya:** Oh, does that mean you'd also be good at gathering news?

**Suika:** Huh? N-news? O-of course, I could do that with my little finger.

**Aya:** Oh, that's amazing. Why don't we continue this conversation over a drink at that stand I was talking about? I'm sure you have a lot of interesting things to tell me.

**Suika:** Sure. Tonight, we'll drink until we can't talk anymore!

**Aya:** Ohoho, but I'm a tengu, you know? If I get so inebriated I can't hear your drunken words anymore... Hahahahaha.

**Suika:** This is why they say, "Never get too close to tengu."

## Mysterious Luxury Item Arrives at Kourindou

### The nargile, for leisurely enjoying tobacco

There is much ado lately over the arrival of a large, mysterious pot at Kourindou, the antique store by the forest's entrance. Its waist-high size makes it rather tall indeed. According to Kourindou's owner, it's called a nargile.

The owner stated that the nargile is a type of tobacco burner, one which you can use to enjoy the tobacco slowly over a very long period. It is quite a bit different from the familiar tobacco paraphernalia, with its huge pot, pipe-like mouthpiece, and a plate on the pot's top opening. For that reason, no one has even the slightest idea of how to use it, including the merchant.

"I would think you use it to burn the tobacco and inhale the smoke, but this somehow involves water, as well, so it seems contradictory. How the water is supposed to give off smoke is something I am unable to comprehend."

So said Kourindou's operator, Rinnosuke Morichika (Half-human, half-youkai). He continued:

"However, this nargile would make a splendid decoration. It looks like a vase but is not a vase, looks like a light stand but is not a light stand; its incongruous form is magnificent. I highly doubt I will ever come across something like this ever again. You will definitely regret it if you don't buy it now. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Kourindou is a place where useful-looking items fallen from the outside world are collected and sold. So, along with not knowing when the next arrival of stock will come, the same items may never show up again. Interested people that don't mind not knowing this object's use, and are fine with owning it



Illustration by Genji Asai

<sup>34</sup>About September 1st, 2000

for decorative purposes, should buy it right away. The price is negotiable.

As for me, I've never seen smoking tools other than a simple pipe, and such a big smoker that is impossible to carry around is not exactly desirable to me. But as it is believed the nargile is for smoking in a relaxed position, those that would want to pass their afternoon tea time leisurely having an elegant smoke might do well to consider the purchase.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

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## Guide to Notable Locales in Gensokyo

### Hakurei Shrine

The Hakurei Shrine. Deep within the mountains, separated from the Human Village, Gensokyo's only occupied shrine can be found situated on the border between Gensokyo and the outside world. Though this shrine does have a connection to Gensokyo, it's not a particularly close one. It doesn't have a close connection with the outside world either. This shrine's location is on the very border.

Many people are fascinated by the cherry blossoms blooming here in the spring. But because of the personality of the shrine maiden that lives here, many youkai and evil spirits gather at the shrine, and there are always at least a few in its vicinity. For this reason, very few normal humans visit the shrine. The shrine maiden seems to attract youkai to the shrine, and as a result of this, the humans stay away. Quite ironic.

Of course, this isn't a place where we youkai can entirely relax either. One of the few moderately strong human rivals lives here. Fortunately, the shrine has no role other than maintaining the border between Gensokyo and the outside world. This is no longer a place to worship the gods, so those who find sacred areas difficult to endure have no problem here.

Visitors to the shrine should not bring monetary offerings, but food or alcohol. Speaking of which, the shrine maiden will likely ask to borrow some during the cherry blossom season despite complaining about the youkai. There will always be



someone there no matter the time, so going there to drink in peace is not recommended.

As of now, Gensokyo and the outside world are completely cut off from each other because of the Hakurei Shrine. However, the shrine back when Gensokyo was formed was not the cheerful shrine it is now. It was a rather small and dull shrine that did not seem able to perform its functions in the least. Perhaps the Hakurei Shrine is still seen as such on the outside world. The youkai who visit the shrine now enjoy the colorful shrine, but at the same time, they might miss the good old days.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

\* \* \*

**Aya:** It's been quite a while since I ran that article. Were you able to sell it off?

**Rinnosuke:** The nargile? It's not for sale anymore. I'm claiming it for myself.

**Aya:** Is that so? Well, that's not surprising that something so large wouldn't sell, especially if no one knows how to use it.

**Rinnosuke:** There was plenty of interest. It's just that I changed my mind about selling it.

**Aya:** Was it defective, then?

**Rinnosuke:** I figured out how to use it, so it's no longer for sale.

**Aya:** Excuse me?

**Rinnosuke:** It would've been a waste, wouldn't it? I might never have the chance to obtain another one.

**Aya:** Ahh, so you are keeping it for personal use. But can your business carry on like that?

**Rinnosuke:** Business or not, a terrible waste is a terrible waste.

**Aya:** I don't quite understand your reasons for operating a shop. I don't think many humans would want to come this close to the forest in the first place. Are you really intent on salesmanship?



Illustration by Chiha Ayami

### *Rinnosuke Morichika*

Owner of the antique store Kourindou. Seems like he opened the store more as a hobby than as a business.

*Appearances:* Curiosities of Lotus Asia (Published by BIBLOS in “Magazine Elfics” series)

**Rinnosuke:** That’s a rather complex question. It will take me some time to answer it... oh, wait a moment.

**Aya:** Complex, you say...

**Rinnosuke:** This is the nargile.

**Aya:** Yes, I know that.

**Rinnosuke:** Set-up takes some time, but once lit, the tobacco burns for more than one hour. You put the charcoal here, and then the tobacco here. And about your earlier question, of course I’m fully intent on selling my wares.

**Aya:** I see, so that’s how it’s smoked. And how did you figure out how to use it?

**Rinnosuke:** It came in a flash, while I was in the middle of some trial and error. It was when a youkai that knows a lot about the outside world taught it to me.

**Aya:** So, someone taught you? You didn’t have to say it like you had figured it out by yourself, then.

**Rinnosuke:** Not only does the tobacco last longer than usual but, once you start, you can’t carry it around with you. That’s why it’s ideal for smoking while reading a book or having tea.

**Aya:** That’s why you said you didn’t want to sell it anymore...

**Rinnosuke:** And I won’t. It’s not for sale.

**Aya:** And I don’t want to buy it. Isn’t a tobacco smoker this big a little inconvenient? And the water, what is it for?

**Rinnosuke:** The water... is to weigh it down so it doesn’t collapse, I guess.

**Aya:** Quite a nonsensical thing, isn’t it?

**Rinnosuke:** Aren’t all luxury goods nonsensical to begin with? But if it weren’t for people who can’t appreciate them, there wouldn’t be any interesting people. People that appreciate luxury goods like liquor, tea, coffee, tobacco, and the like are always seen as very interesting people.

**Aya:** Speaking of which, people who live away from the Human Village are all into luxury goods. People who live in luxury are all strange ones indeed.

**Rinnosuke:** And they are mostly self-centered folk, if I might add.

## Flower-Viewing Continues at the Shrine

**Happy shouts of “It’s the fifth one!” as parties continue into the new month**

Today, on ○ the ○th, cherry blossoms are still in full bloom at the shrine. Around this time last year, it felt as if summer had taken place of spring, yet now the cherry blossoms show absolutely no sign of waning. There may be something behind this anomaly, but it is nothing more than another one of the many minor incidents that occur in Gensokyo. Flower-viewing takes place almost every night at the most magnificent shrine.



Illustration by Genji Asai

To report on the excitement of these parties, I interviewed the attendees as I mingled.

Humans, youkai, fairies, and a myriad of other races are enjoying themselves at the shrine. The only one person who was not in a jovial mood was the shrine maiden, Reimu Hakurei (human). I conducted a personal interview with her to discover why she was in such a foul mood.

“What? You want to know why I’m in a bad mood even with this party going on? It’s because it’s a **party**. Everyone makes a huge mess, then they go home when they’re all tired out without even thinking of helping to clean up. Or are you saying that you do?”

I didn’t want to help so I just poured her some sake from a nearby bottle and her mood instantly improved. It appears that she does not dislike drinking.

The party is, as one would expect, rowdy to the point of chaos. This time I decided asking a question from a different angle. The question was about the cherry blossoms that are still blooming. I asked whether she noticed the incident or not, and if she had already realized, why wasn’t doing anything about it.

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<sup>35</sup>About May 8th, 2005

“Incident? You mean the cherry blossoms that are still here? Ah, I’ve already taken care of it. In three days, the cherry blossoms are definitely going to start scattering like always. Not just the cherry blossoms, but the other off-season flowers as well. . . It’s not that the flowers bloom because they want to. They’ve lost their place... You know, let’s not talk about this. How about a drink? These flowers aren’t going to last forever.”

There hasn’t been many significant troubles lately, so it’s a surprise that it’s already been resolved. Reimu seems to be a laid-back drunkard, but she’s definitely a Hakurei shrine maiden. Tonight, I was able to get more information about how Reimu resolved this by getting her to drink more. I would like to organize this information and report it in a few days.

Gensokyo’s most beautiful cherry blossoms are at the Hakurei Shrine. The flowers likely won’t be in full bloom for much longer, so why not visit the shrine and see for yourself while you still can?

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

From page:

3 — Here Comes a New Medicine for Hangovers

18 — Patchouli’s Pressed Flower Exhibition Coming Soon

\* \* \*



Illustration by Chiha Ayami

that one incident.

**Reimu:** The heck? What’s this weird article?

**Aya:** There haven’t been any real incident-like incidents as of late, so I didn’t have a choice other than to write an article about this boring shrine.

**Reimu:** Don’t call it boring. It’s nice that it’s peaceful.

**Aya:** So peaceful you’ve lost sense of danger.

**Reimu:** No, I haven’t! And besides, if you have nothing to write about you can write about my heroic tale of how I resolved

**Aya:** Well, your heroic tale there seems really fishy. Not that I need full coverage, but I'd at least need some evidence before I can turn it into an article.

**Reimu:** It's not a lie. Your newspaper is the one full of lies.

**Aya:** My newspapers have no lies. I print nothing but the truth.

**Reimu:** There's a saying that goes, "Repeat a lie a thousand times and it becomes truth."

**Aya:** Whatever are you talking about?

**Reimu:** Not to mention, with the way you've written this article it seems like I'm just some drunk slacker.

**Aya:** That sounds accurate to me. All I had to do was give you a little sake and your mouth would not stop moving for the world.

**Reimu:** Mmph. But you drank as much as I did, didn't you? How were able to write an article with so much alcohol in your system?

**Aya:** We tengu hold our drink well. The only ones that can match us would be... say, oni.

**Reimu:** Ahh, geez. I can't remember what I said at all. And nobody helped to clean up afterwards.

**Aya:** You cannot expect me to write an article of your drunken heroic tale.

**Reimu:** It's still true, though.

**Aya:** What about the heroic tales before this one? The Eternal Night Incident and the Scarlet Mist Incident and so on and so forth.

**Reimu:** All true.

**Aya:** That's hard to believe. Really, unless I get some evidence, it's too risky for me to write about them.

**Reimu:** Then why not get some? I'm pretty sure you know who to ask.

**Aya:** Are you serious?

**Reimu:** ... Yeah, I don't think a single one of them would give a decent testimony.

**Aya:** Besides, using a drunkard's nonsense as a spark is still difficult. I can't even use it as a lead.

**Reimu:** It's not nonsense, already.

### *Reimu Hakurei*

The shrine maiden of the Hakurei Shrine, which stands on the border between Gensokyo and the outside world. She has a straightforward, frank personality, and she is looked up to by both human and youkai. Her occupation is defeating youkai that commit misdeeds and drinking tea on the veranda.

*Appearances:* All works in the Touhou series



**Aya:** Even if you yourself don't remember what you said? You're kidding. Well, if I ever begin to run short on material, I might do it.

**Reimu:** Geez, this happens every time this sly crow shows up...

**Aya:** So, you're going to be doing some flower-viewing today as well, I assume.

**Reimu:** Probably the last party of the year. I'd like some help to prepare and clean up for this one at least.

**Aya:** May I assist you today? I'll pass on the bird stew, though.

**Reimu:** Huh? You're going to help?

**Aya:** However, you have to win a match against me.

**Reimu:** Piece of cake! What kind of match?

**Aya:** Drinking.

**Reimu:** Ahh, I just want someone to help.

*Classification: Special Feature Article Memo*  
*Editor: Aya Shameimaru*

## **Mysterious Scarlet Mist over Gensokyo**

**The first major incident in a long time finally caused the shrine maiden to take action**

As many of those reading this are aware, currently Gensokyo is enshrouded by a scarlet mist. The unusual density of the fog has blocked out almost all sunlight, and as a result, summer has felt more like fall. Though it has only been a few days since the fog descended, its density has continued to increase with no signs of dispersing.

It is obvious that this scarlet mist was not caused by natural phenomena. If the culprit behind the problem is not stopped, it is likely to believe that no one on the ground would ever see the light of day again. An incident on such a massive scale could only be handled by the human shrine maiden. However, we youkai found the shrine maiden's actions to be rather comical to observe.

On ○ the ○th, the shrine maiden finally took action. The shrine maiden seemed to know her destination, and did not lose her way even when kicking around other youkai en route. She may have even attacked me had I been careless enough to get too close.

The shrine maiden seems to be heading towards the lake. Because the mist had been spread to every corner of Gensokyo, I still do not know how she was able to gain her bearings in this low visibility. I guess that's the shrine maiden's intuition. The shrine maiden disappeared over the lake. It seemed that the offender lived in the lake, or maybe it was just on the way to her real goal. I can't see anything above the lake, and the



Illustration by TOBI

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<sup>36</sup>2003-2004

fog is so thick, I quickly lost sight of her. Unfortunately, I must abandon any further pursuit here.

Whenever people say the shrine maiden is on the move, it seems that the incident at hand will be solved soon enough. If that is the case, the fog will soon cleared up, the sunlight will reach the ground, and we will be able to say goodbye to the cold summer.

The motto of us youkai is that fun can be found in any kind of situation. If the scarlet mist incident was heading towards resolution, it wouldn't be possible to enjoy the incident for much longer. So, in order to get the most out of the incident, I decided to determine who caused it, and their reason for bring about the fog.

The most striking feature of the mist is its scarlet color. Why did the fog need to be dyed scarlet? Once I thought about it, the answer was very simple.

When placed under a scarlet glow, the scarlet flowers appear to have no color. That means that under that kind of light, it would be impossible to tell the difference between scarlet and white flowers. The goal of the scarlet mist was to remove the distinction between scarlet and white, to remove the border between them. I'm sure that many people would be able to imagine why that would be a bad omen. It was likely that the offender did not live under the mist, and wanted to monopolize the two colors for themselves to bring an end to all celebrations, which those two colors signify.

However, it is easy for us youkai to enjoy the unique situation of this incident. At the same time when scarlet lost all its color, this cast Gensokyo in a new light vastly different from the old. It is now possible to see things that couldn't be seen under the normal wavelength. With our field of visions tinted scarlet, we took a leisurely stroll through Gensokyo. We enjoyed a world that was slightly different from the usual. If incidents must be resolved, then they shouldn't be resolved in a hurry, but until we've gotten our fill of the our lifestyle under the new conditions.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

*Touhou Koumakyou ~ the Embodiment of Scarlet Devil.*

One summer day, Gensokyo was silently veiled in a disturbing, evil mist. The power of the mist would have even exceeded Gensokyo's boundaries into the human world if it continued to expand, so the shrine maiden who preserves the order in Gensokyo finally stood up to face the one behind this abnormal situation. Relying on her intuition, Reimu headed towards the lake, finally arriving at the mansion where a red devil resides. . .

Season 119<sup>37</sup>

*Classification: Special Feature Article Memo*  
*Editor: Aya Shameimaru*

## Petals from Heaven in the Spring of Silver Snow

**Not a single sign of spring could be seen in the prolonged winter**



Illustration by TOBI

Everyone would admit that this year's winter is unusually long. In any other year the cherry blossoms would already be in bloom, but this year the blizzards' falling snowflakes have taken the place of falling cherry blossom petals. However, dancing cherry blossom petals are also mysteriously mixed in with the blizzard. No cherry blossoms trees had bloomed anywhere in Gensokyo, so this fact served to increase the likelihood of this incident being the work of another

party.

In light of these details, it was confirmed that the shrine maiden has begun to take action. She appears to be heading upwind. As always, the shrine maiden encountered youkai, and since she attacked them for no major reason, caution is necessary. Knowledgeable ones such as us tengu who have lived in Gensokyo for a long time are able to learn about most humans and youkai by understanding them piece-by-piece.

After exterminating a number of unfortunate youkai, the shrine maiden flew to a place high in the sky, above the clouds. Unfortunately, as I'm unable to conceal myself above the clouds, I must abandon any further pursuit here.

However, as the shrine maiden ascended above the clouds, I was able to hypothesize the identity of the culprit behind this incident. In a Gensokyo with no blooming cherry blossoms, there were still cherry blossom petals. I suppose this means that the cherry blossom petals were coming from above the clouds. That is to say, the heavens. If they were fully enjoying spring

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<sup>37</sup>2004-2005



above the clouds, then there is a very high probability that the blizzard on the ground was also the work of the those in the heavens. This is merely conjecture, but the true motive behind the cause of the incident can only be simple selfishness. Those living in the heavens are watching our suffering for amusement while they enjoy their sake. Nearly all these incidents are caused by those with power acting on self-centered whims. All we can do is wait until the shrine maiden can teach them a lesson.

These selfish incidents are only truly troublesome for the powerless humans. For us youkai, our motto is that fun can be found in any kind of situation. In fact, there were very few youkai who were troubled by the the extended winter. We actually found the circumstances enjoyable. For example, I can let the wind carry me as far as it can. Riding the wind in such a way is great fun. While trying to master the blizzard was tough, freely riding on the wind truly feels pleasurable. Entrusting myself to the wind, I also noticed that it would take me around and around Gensokyo. Even like that, I was able to find evidence that would help me understand who would prevent spring from arriving.

Now that the shrine maiden has begun to act, spring will finally turn to winter in two or three days. If she were a more flexible person, I imagine she also would've enjoyed seeing the cherry blossom petals mix with the snowflakes in the blizzard.

(Aya Shameimaru)

### *Touhou Youyoumu ~ Perfect Cherry Blossom*

After the Scarlet Mist Incident of the previous year, in May of the next year, Gensokyo was still in the middle of winter. While the usual occurrence of silvery blizzards giving way to cherry blossom blizzards was expected, this year it seemed something was holding back that convention. To bring back spring, Reimu relied on her intuition as always and finally arrived at...

Season 119<sup>38</sup>

*Classification: Special Feature Article Memo*

*Editor: Aya Shameimaru*

## Three-Day Pandemonium

### The shrine, infested with youkai

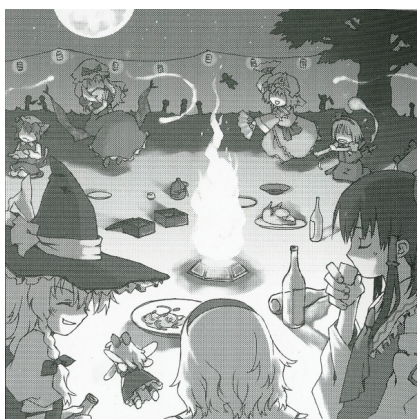


Illustration by TOBI

There have been recent reports of the Hakurei shrine maiden acting in a strange manner. She has permitted a great number of youkai to hold wide-scale parties at the shrine. While it was difficult to discern at first, after close observation, I have come to the conclusion that something strange could very well be going on.

The party-goers showed signs of slight fatigue, and they appeared to treat each other in a doubtful manner. The atmosphere

was not unlike that of a murder case at an isolated mountain cottage, which is not normal for most parties.

I hid myself to observe the proceedings, but nothing happened and everyone left after the party was over. I still thought there was something strange so I continued my observation, but the fact is that the party had not started that day, but had lasted intermittently over the span of three days.

The length of this year's winter was overwhelmingly long, delaying the arrival of spring. When spring finally came around, it was just in time for summer. The radical changes in temperature might have messed up their heads.

However, while it would seem plausible for the shrine maiden to be affected, it is unclear why a great number of youkai have joined in the merrymaking at the shrine. I am also concerned about what could be conspiring behind the scenes. To my eyes, it seemed as if they were all wagering something over the course of the party.

My guess is that perhaps the shrine maiden decided to set a record for most consecutive parties, which eventually resulted

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<sup>38</sup>2004-2005

in a situation where she'd invested too much to consider pulling out. It's also possible that all the youkai felt vexed at the thought of Reimu alone succeeding at such a record, and came back day after day to participate despite their fatigue. The uneasy atmosphere may have been a result of the weary party-goers waiting to see who would give up first.

There has been no other major news in this time of peace. As there was already the big incident where where spring didn't come this year, after this reactionary period, peace may continue. Harmonious times like these are to be enjoyed.

However, though I'm unsure how many paid notice to it, a very thin eerie mist has spread around the shrine's perimeter. If the shrine maiden had not been distracted by the party, I wonder if she would have noticed that incident. I can only hope my expectations are wrong, but this mist might be slightly troubling. It feels something like a power that Gensokyo hasn't felt in a long time.

(Aya Shameimaru)

*Touhou Suimusou ~ Immaterial and Missing Power*

The long winter had ended, and Gensokyo finally greeted spring. When it comes to spring, both humans and youkai have one thing in mind – flower-viewing parties. But this year, it was too much. There was one very long party held for three days. And with each day, a mysterious mist was spreading throughout Gensokyo...

Season 119<sup>39</sup>

*Classification: Special Feature Article Memo*  
*Editor: Aya Shameimaru*

## The Night Without Dawn

**An incident of seldom magnitude leaves tensions running**



Illustration by Yuki Usagi

It is early morning of ○ the ○th. A severe incident of unknown cause has amplified tensions throughout Gensokyo. This considerably long night continues to remain on the verge of dawn, and the moon has stopped its procession across the sky as well. All on the night of a full moon, no less. There are few beings in Gensokyo who are not affected by the full moon. Because of this, madness is thought to be spreading throughout Gensokyo.

The cause and motive are completely unknown, and because of her stubbornness to fight in these situations, I decided to move before waiting for the shrine maiden to do so. That is how concerning Gensokyo's current state was. In the end, after an indeterminate amount of time, the moon suddenly jerked forward with frightening speed and disappeared beyond the horizon. The sun has finally returned.

What anyone can gain from stopping time during the night, as well as how this problem was resolved, will remain a mystery. I heard rumors that the shrine maiden went on the warpath again, and due to her sudden willingness to resolve the incident, I regret that I was unable to observe her actions. However, there is still one issue weighing on my mind. Is there a youkai that would benefit from stopping the moon in its tracks? Is there anyone other than youkai who would do something like this, such as a human? That seems to be the more likely theory.

It is said that nights are long during the fall, but that night was too long. Even the youkai whose motto is that fun can be found in any kind of situation were irritated by this dire

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<sup>39</sup>2004-2005

incident. However, when it comes to who would cause such a thing, much less how much power they would need to be able to do so, my mind is blank. But is there any need to actively pursue the answers?

I heard another especially interesting rumor while I was interviewing others. The moon on the Endless Night and the moon on the night after were completely different. Although slight, the color and the light reflected were both different, as well as the energy that it radiated.

Perhaps, on that night, the moon may have been reborn. The ceremony of reincarnation required sufficient time, so the moon needed to be stopped. Taking that angle into consideration, it's no wonder. If that's the case, that incident wasn't the doings of youkai, but perhaps a natural phenomenon. Certainly, it is unlikely that the youkai who are easily influenced by the moon would be able to think to stop it so easily. I should have considered it to be an act of the moon itself, and not of those who are influenced by it.

Still, if the rumors of the shrine maiden's rampage are true, I find her arbitrary actions to be rather rash, just like during the other incidents. To handle a dangerous incident on that scale in the same simple manner as before was extremely hazardous. It is necessary to quickly investigate the root of the problem first.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

*Touhou Eiyashou ~ Imperishable Night.*

Many were hoping to welcome the harvest moon in autumn, but the actual full moon was slightly different. The major youkai were troubled by this moon that had lost its power, and they worked together with humans, who weren't aware of the incident at all, to find the missing real moon. The night was stopped until the true full moon is returned to Gensokyo...



Season 120<sup>40</sup>

*Classification: Special Feature Article Memo*  
*Editor: Aya Shameimaru*

## Peak Flower-Viewing Time Continues in Gensokyo

**Sunflowers, irises, and cherry blossoms all blooming without regard to season**



Illustration by TOBI

Presently, I imagine everyone is already aware of the flowers blooming throughout Gensokyo. Each and every flower blooming at the same time makes this sensation of a mysterious new season instantly noticeable.

The reason for this is unclear at the moment, but seeing all the flowers has lifted everyone's spirits so it doesn't feel dangerous at all. No one knows if this is someone up to mischief or merely a naturally-occurring phenomenon.

However, in this ever-changing

land, this phenomenon is seen as a gift from Gensokyo itself by youkai and humans and they are enjoying the spectacle.

Like other incidents in recent years, this phenomenon has a strange nature as well. First, no one has any idea as to how this phenomenon came about. Despite flowers of all seasons being in bloom, this is an otherwise normal spring. The temperature, angle of the sun, time of sunset and rainfall show no deviation whatsoever. At this point in time, we only know that the seasons have not been tampered with. Also, one can make any flower bloom by giving it power, but there are too many flowers for this to be realistic possibility.

And there is one more unusual characteristic. If someone were to giving power to the flowers to make them bloom, no one has felt any danger from this anyway. That is, no one feels any strong power at work. The flowers only give off a faint energy. It is a power so thin that it feels as if it could vanish at any moment. There is no explanation for how such a thin power could cause something so widespread.

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<sup>40</sup>2005-2006

This time, it's not just the youkai, but the humans who are also enjoying this phenomenon. The shrine maiden is also running around Gensokyo, but no one knows if she will truly return everything back to normal. Meaning that while she usually headed for a single destination in the past, she's just meandering here and there this time. Perhaps she is also enjoying the flowery spectacle. But it's not just the shrine maiden. The humans and youkai alike are cheerfully flying around with no real purpose. With everyone floating among the flowers, I'm sure that some danmaku horseplay will happen whenever they unexpectedly run into one another. Therefore, everyone should be alert.

I have also been enjoying this phenomenon, but while I was hiding among the flowers, I discovered another abnormal event. I think it's fair enough to call this an incident. What I saw is likely connected to the cause of the unusually blooming flowers, but I won't report anything until I can confirm it. I am presently in the middle of my investigation. Later on, I want to write a full report.

*(Aya Shameimaru)*

*Touhou Kaeidzuka ~ Phantasmagoria of Flower View*

The power of colors that had endured the winter had been released. It was now the season of budding life, spring. The flowers were in full bloom, and the fairies were causing a racket. However, it wasn't just spring flowers, but flowers from every season that had bloomed, yet that was not the real incident. Reimu went about her usual routine, and flew out from the shrine with no goal in mind.

## About the Music Column “Musical Sense of Illusion”

These articles about familiar pieces of music were written by the head priest of the Hakurei Shrine, who wrote these columns about music as fast as if he were composing them. To describe it accurately, if you cut out everything that’s a lie, it’s almost too trustworthy. Surely, he must be the **real** Hakurei Shrine’s head priest. But whether or not you enjoy the articles that he wrote, or what his true identity is should be of no matter. . . . Yes, you should enjoy these articles purely for what they are, and take them into your mind like that.

### Onigashima in the Fairyland ~ Missing Power

Song from Immaterial and Missing Power

This song feels like it has an amazing sense of speed. Among all the final boss themes for the games I’ve made until now, I believe it to be the cutest one so I am satisfied. While it feels fast, the fact that the main melody is also very simple makes it feel nice.

In this song, though it feels like the world is no longer becoming any wider, no matter where you go, it feels very lonely. Enjoyment that feels like it could collapse at the slightest brush. I think that’s where the song’s “Missing Power” comes from.

But if you just take the intro, and change the composition of the sound, it’s interesting how it becomes a much heavier piece. Even now, I might not even be too sure about what to make of it. But I guess it’s suitable for that rambunctious brat (how rude of me) of a last boss.

### Girls’ Sealing Club

Song from Ghostly Field Club

I conceived the Secret Sealing Club as a group that’d branch out in a different angle from the games. If I didn’t give them a theme song, the characters I took the time to create wouldn’t feel alive, so I wrote this. It is my (biased) opinion that a theme song needs to be cool. That’s why I made it as cool as I possibly could, catchy and fashionable.

When I listen to this song, I see visions of cool piano playing. It’s the kind of song that makes you want to drink alcohol. I think it’s a good idea for songs with cool piano parts have a simple rhythm and a single, defined direction. You just have

to ignore the nagging thought that following this theory will produce a bad song.

### Necrofantasia

Song from Perfect Cherry Blossom

I was enthusiastic to make a song so incredibly suspicious-sounding, but this also feels rather calming and Touhou-like. I found Perfect Cherry Blossom to be calming overall, and it had a lot of songs that really respected their surroundings, but this song definitely had more of a pure “shoot ’em up” feel.

When I listen to this song, I feel a strong force that exhausts my physical energy. It’s probably just this song that makes me feel more modern sensations. The illusions I see are both from the present and the future.

“Necro-” means “death”. The fantastic world of the dead, only revealing itself at the time of death. That is why this song has no feelings of the past. This had to be a song like this where you could feel the present.

### Eternal Festival of Illusions

Song from Ghostly Field Club

While I always speak of illusions, I want to make it clear that this is a realistic song. I made this song to tie up the CD. If there wasn’t a song like that at the end, then I fear that it would’ve ended on an uneasy note. Having illusions from the beginning to the end is overdoing it, so it needs to feel like it returns to reality at some point.

However, because this song was meant to return the listener to reality, I think the song itself has little power. As I don’t see any major illusions either, the image of it being a just a normal song is strong. Still, a CD needs a long like this.

### Strange Bird of the Moon, Illusion of the Mysterious Cat

Song from Ghostly Field Club

This is obviously Renko and Merry’s song. The Strange Bird is Renko, who is represented by the fast first half of the song. The Mysterious Cat is Merry, who is represented by the strange rhythms in the second half. It’s almost like riding a bird flying through a city at night, or almost like a drunken cat staggering through the city. That was the intent I had in mind when I wrote this song.

If you don't understand the theme, it's impossible to make any sense of it. To be honest, this song is meant for nothing but my own self-satisfaction, so I wonder if it's okay to just put it on a CD. I still like it, though.

### Plain Asia

#### Song from Imperishable Night

I tried hard to write this song to express the idea of “this must have been the Japan that Japanese people saw”. For some songs that are said to be pure, traditional Japanese music, I don't really think they were completely made in a Japanese manner. Japanese people see history starting to rebuild itself, but what is actually happening is that the present and the past are beginning to separate. Actually, I think that Japanese people should use modern methods and see where they end up naturally.

Right now, I think of this song as a Japanese song. It shows that you don't necessarily need to have a shamisen or a bamboo flute or use a Japanese musical scale. Whenever I hear songs like this, I feel the illusion that I'm grateful to have been born in Japan. Uh, wait. Did I say illusion? No, no, don't get the wrong impression now.

### Legend of Hourai

#### Song from Dolls in Pseudo Paradise

I think that “Hourai” is a keyword that will show up even in later Touhou works, but this is when I first came up with and used it, for the title of the first song on my first music CD. Yes, I decided on the name first, and then wrote the song based on that image.

This is a quiet song that is scary in how calm it is. I don't think I've written anything like this lately... Probably because I've got nothing but shmups on the brain now. Well, I guess it's just my narrowing mindset, but I've got to try to get back to the mindset at the heart of Touhou from time to time.

This was the first original song on the CD that I wrote comments for, so I feel it is especially precious. I would re-write the comments in a number of ways, so I think it helped me improve a lot. I am very grateful for that.



## Flight in the Bamboo Cutter ~ Lunatic Princess

Song from Imperishable Night

While I am someone who has yet to actually see Kaguya-hime, this song was not meant to represent The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter, but rather my personal interpretation of what happens after the story ends.

There are two sides, the Lunar Emissaries who reveal themselves only on nights of the full moon, and their opponents, the humans on Earth. But the humans can't even scratch the Emissaries. Just when they've lost all will to fight, that's when the bamboo on Earth begins to glow... and the moon princess appears, that is, Kaguya-hime. Kaguya, pained by the calamity she brought upon the humans, fights on alone for their sake.

My image for this song is nothing that off-the-wall. It's more of the moon that was said to exist in Japan's sky a long time ago, and the princesses that fly through that sky. Of course, I also want my songs to remain in people's minds decades from now, I will continue to do my best to keep that playful spirit and continue to spread that retro style for those that appreciate it.

## Circus Reverie

Song from Dolls in Pseudo Paradise

Please see this song as having an unthinkable amount of darkness and heaviness compared to the songs in my games now. While I can imagine some kind of background to accompany the visions when I listen to most recent Touhou songs, with this song, there's no background to speak of. It's just darkness. I don't like writing songs like this now, so I want to know what my mental state was when I wrote this song.

However, because almost all of the piano in this song doesn't conjure any particular image, I think that I intended for it to set the rhythm. Listening to it now, it feels like it's meant to tie everything together, but it increasingly loses control. It's easy to imagine why I don't understand if it was a good idea.

## Boys and Girls of a Science Era

Song from Changeability of Strange Dream

"A Science Era" is a song that doesn't really feel like the future. That's natural, because the phrase itself doesn't sound that old. In actuality, this song is trying to exhibit a more complex theme, a song for those who miss the Science Era. I rather like this song myself.

Boys and girls that wear retro clothes, and a world that immerses itself in an occult pseudoscience. That's the kind of things this song makes me envision. Nothing bright by any means, but it's an unusually positive world with sepia-toned science.

I might as well say that it has a nostalgic feel to it. However, whenever I reminisce, it's mostly about things like sounds or melodies. I might even do this with my own songs that I write in the future.

### Wind God Girl

Song from Phantasmagoria of Flower View

This is an extremely catchy song. While that may be because it is a new song, it is also very close to my own image of Touhou. A naturally girly cuteness, a feeling of giddiness, a Japanese oriental style, and it doesn't ruin the flow of the game. I think a song like this every now and then is a good idea (kind of like other people's problems).

Yes, I used to play trumpet and I still own one now. I think the trumpet for this kind of song is pretty cool.

As an aside, the trumpet has the main part because it's a wind instrument.

### Border Between Dreams and Reality

Song from Changeability of Strange Dream

I want to point out that the song's title and theme have a story. The song itself plays the part of the border, because the border itself has been sealed away in the song. So it's a duplex barrier. The intro represents the realization this is a dream, while the main melody represents the sense of reality.

So, what about the song? It doesn't make me feel anything in particular, but for songs with that kind of meaning, as long as the meaning is understood, it's enjoyable. On the other hand, it means that the illusions are pulled down into balance with its message.

### Kid's Festival ~ Innocent Treasures

Song from Changeability of Strange Dream

This was the most difficult song for me to write out of everything I've written so far. I guess you could say it's because it's my own theme. It's the theme song that plays when I make my

entrance on a talk show, so writing this song was somewhat embarrassing.

I think I inadvertantly did a good job on this song. But it's too grand and too cute, so there's no way it could be my theme song.

For some reason, when I was writing the main melody I ended up humming "Yumeta-ga-e, Yumeta-ga-e" along with it, so I used that for the title of the CD (Yumetagae). I was actually going to title this song "The Buddhist Deity of Mercy in a Different Dream" (Yumetagae Kannon), but I didn't want to have that title for my theme song, so I changed it.

### Cinderella Cage ~ Kagome-Kagome Song from Imperishable Night

A song with a similar mindset to "Plain Asia", but this song's melody and the sounds I used are more conspicuously Japanese. This is an original, Touhou-style reinterpretation of the traditional Kagome-Kagome that every Japanese person knows.

While it wasn't composed in the same time period, I think that it's just as powerful as Touryanse, making them the two major fantasy children's songs. While the similarities end there, they both seem to have unfading power. I wanted to see how much I could fool around with the song without reducing that power. I think that's a good way to demonstrate how powerful they are.

By the way, Cinderella is a foreign fairy tale. Huh? You knew that already? Sorry.

### Dream of Arcadia Song from Changeability of Strange Dream

This song is completely opposite from the CD's first song, "Kid's Festival". I wanted to make a fantastical melody with the piano. I think there are people who have noticed, but on the Changeability of Strange Dream album, I was trying to tell a story through the songs. The rearranged pieces represent dreams, and the original songs represent the real world.

The part of this song that leaves the most impression on me is the hook, which is fairly serious, so listening to this after listening to "Kid's Festival" is a little tough. Whenever I do, it makes me think "Merry's dreams are kind of nightmarish, huh?"

## Flower Viewing Mound ~ Higan Retour

Song from Phantasmagoria of Flower View

The title screen songs all have the same general theme, so saying that they all sound familiar is unnecessary. You don't even have to think about it the first time you hear them. But they aren't different arrangements, and they don't have the same melody note for note. It's simply just because the atmospheres they create are the same.

The kind of thing I want to create for a title theme is to not put the player in a bad mood and clear all negative thoughts from their head. These aren't hard-and-fast rules, but I prefer to have a gentle push into the game.

## The Strange Everyday Life of the Flying Shrine Maiden

Song from Dolls in Pseudo Paradise

This is probably the most realistic song in Dolls in Pseudo Paradise. It doesn't really have any fantastical parts (excluding the piano solo), so it doesn't feel like I could use it in a game except for the credits, but I think it has the right qualities for the final song on a music CD. Or that's how I appraised it back when I made it.

However, I'm a little concerned with it now since this song doesn't make me visualize much at all. Maybe it's a fault of the song being too realistic, but I don't know if that's really the whole problem.

In particular, I have no idea what made me come up with the title of this song. I think the shrine maiden mentioned in the title is Reimu. It's Reimu, but it's not written in a way that really reflects her. I suppose that my past self valued this song a little too highly. Yes.

## Eastern Mystical Dream ~ Ancient Temple

Song from Perfect Cherry Blossom, Ghostly Field Club

I wanted a song in Perfect Cherry Blossom to show that there was a different atmosphere between the worlds up to stage 4 and from stage 5 on. This is the result of that, and I'm rather satisfied with it.

Instead of telling a story, this song helps establish the setting. When you listen to a song like this, you more or less feel like you're there. Although, for this song, I was trying to create

the image of “an extremely beautiful place where you wouldn’t want to be”.

When I listen to this song, I see visions of ancient Japan as if it never changed and still existed today. I don’t think this was by chance, but it is certainly an illusion.

There are many impressive songs that I name after the game it appears in. This is another of those songs.

### U.N. Owen was Her?

Song from Embodiment of Scarlet Devil, Dolls in Pseudo  
Paradise

Embodiment of Scarlet Devil is the 6th game in the Touhou series, but in many ways it was a new start. However, I wasn’t sure if I could make too many unexpected changes, but then I thought “With a title like “Touhou”, people will imagine there are a lot of oriental things in this game, so I’ll make the first one not very oriental”. This song is a result of that.

Listening to this song creates a rather suspenseful feeling. While each person will have their own feelings on it, it still sounds very unstable with its rhythmic repeating melody. I intentionally placed that eeriness in this song.

It might be a good idea for me to make more of this kind of song occasionally. The only problem is that it really doesn’t fit the optimistic attitude of the lot in Gensokyo right now.

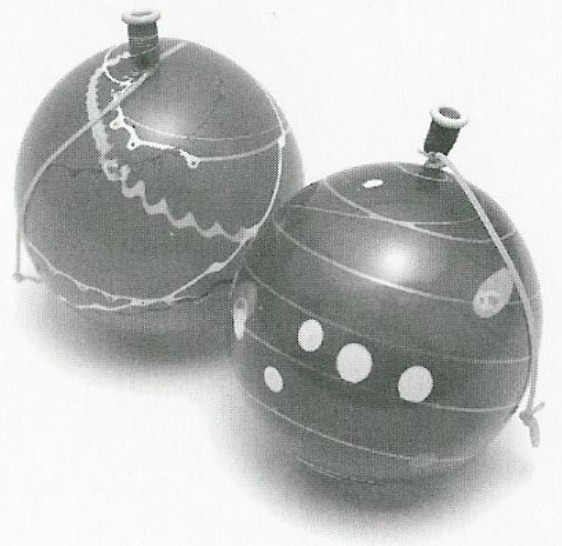
### Night Falls ~ Evening Star

Song from Immaterial and Missing Power, Changeability of  
Strange Dream

Making songs for non-shooting games gives me a number of problems, but for whatever reason, this one was almost too easy. This is the theme for that troublesome youkai, Yukari Yakumo. That’s why I arranged this song as if it had a boundary so there are two images. On the first half of the boundary, there’s an ominous feeling, and on the second, a more pleasant feeling. I particularly like the feel of how fast the point of view changes when it enters the pleasant side.

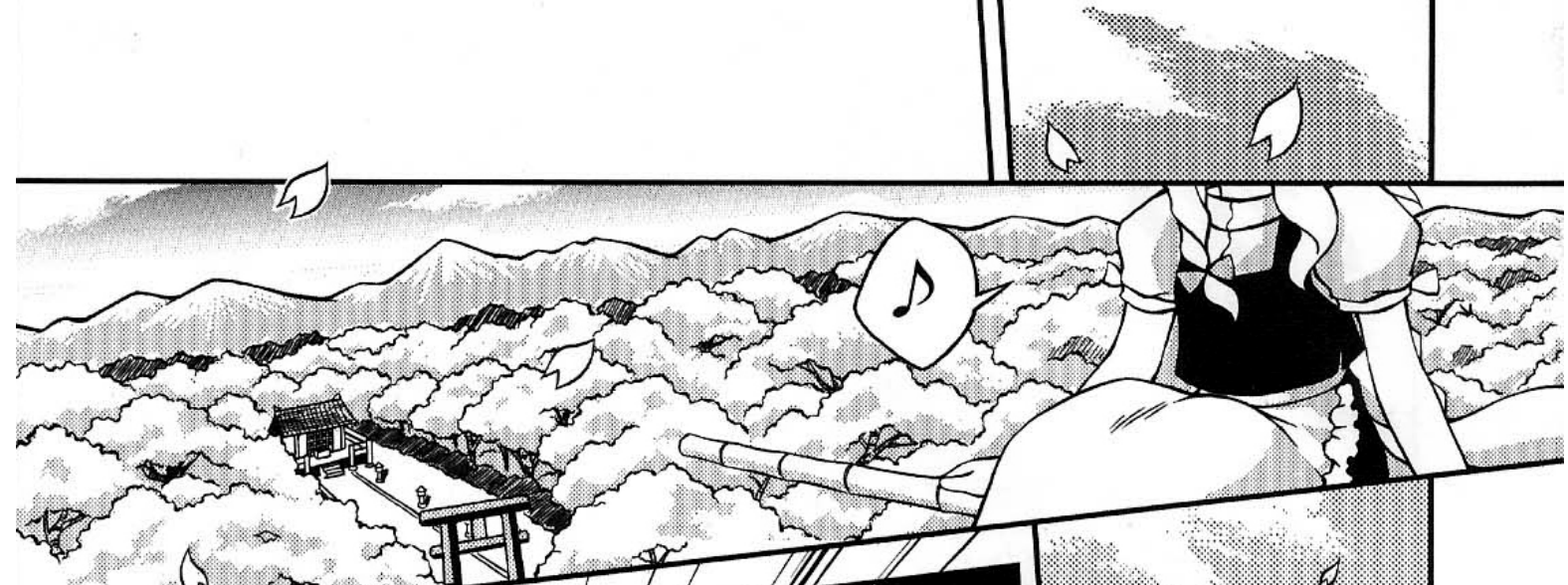
When I listen to this song, I imagine a rapidly widening field of vision over a shrine in the evening. If you listen to it, you’ll immediately know it’s a Touhou song, but somehow it feels different from the others. This isn’t a theory; there is a difference in the “illusionary component” of this song. It’s the effect of the change in mindset when I make a song for a non-shooting game.





# 東方文花帖

Bohemian Archive in Japanese Red.

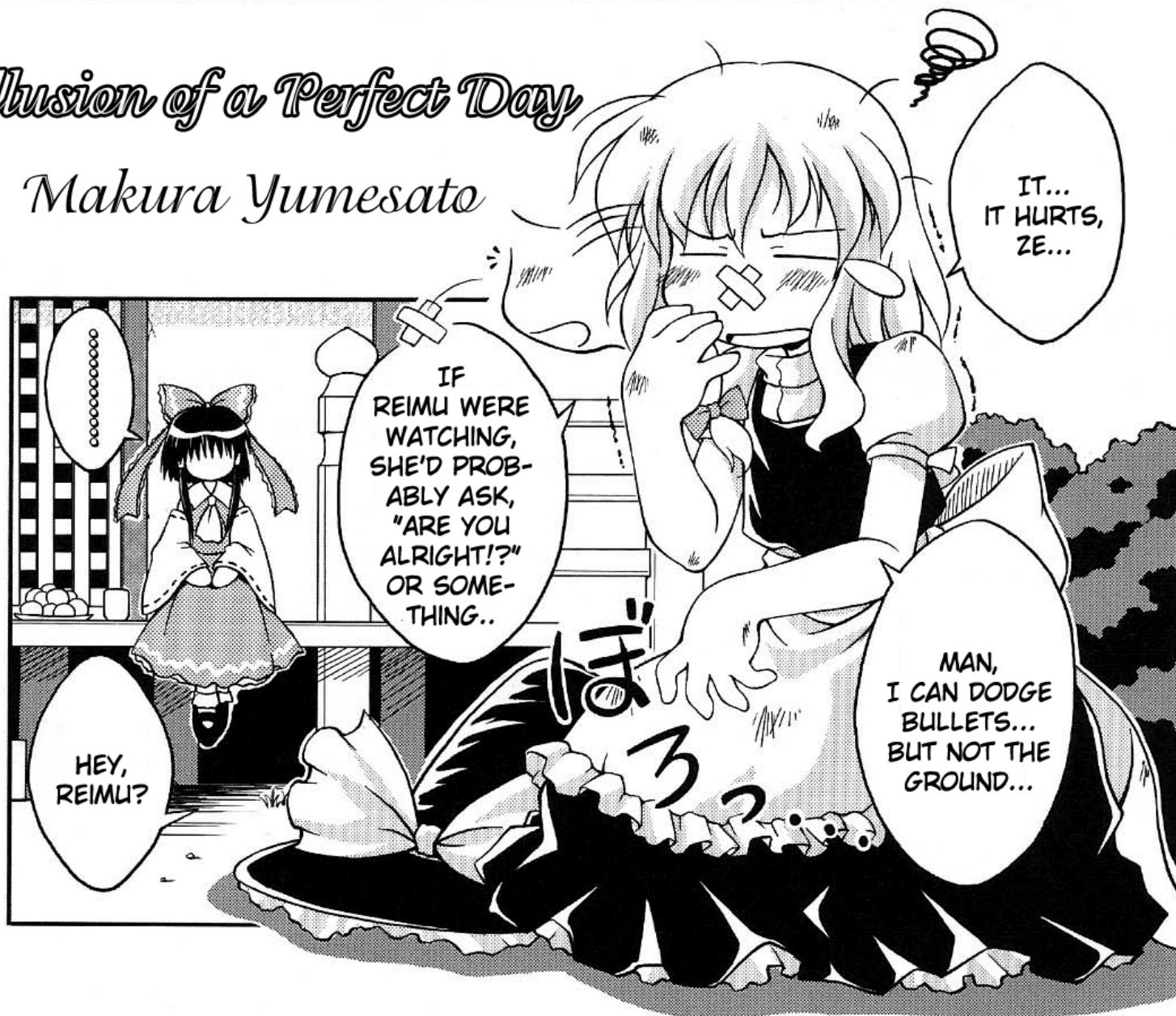






## *Illusion of a Perfect Day*

*Makura Yumesato*

















WHAT'S  
WITH HER...  
NOW  
NOBODY'S  
HERE.

WELL,  
WHAT-  
EVER.

SOMETIMES  
IT'S OKAY TO  
LEAVE THINGS  
LIKE THIS!

I'LL LEAVE  
THE REST  
TO YOU,  
MARISA!

H-HEY!  
WAIT,  
REIMU!

WHAT  
WAS MARISA  
THINKING...

"WE'RE ALL  
FRIENDS?"  
ISN'T SHE  
RUSHING IT  
A BIT?

FRIENDS...  
WELL...  
I HADN'T  
THOUGHT OF  
IT LIKE THAT,  
BUT...

IT'S  
REALLY  
SUBTLE,  
BUT IN  
SOME  
WAYS..

SIGH

RESIGNED

It's not  
so bad...  
perhaps.

Well, I  
guess...

MORE OR  
LESS.  
♡

fufu

I'M  
BA-AACK!  
...AH...

HM?

SORRY,  
JUST TOOK  
A LITTLE  
STROLL.

THE CHERRY  
TREES SHOULD  
BE REALLY  
BEAUTIFUL  
TONIGHT.

I WONDER  
IF EVERYONE  
WILL BE GET-  
TING STARTED  
SOON?

END



OKAY,  
NOW LET'S  
DO THE  
POSE FOR  
OUR NEW  
SONG!

Today,  
again,  
we practice  
in the sky.

They call us  
the ghostly  
sandwich  
board  
advertisers.

We are the  
poltergeist music  
ensemble of the  
netherworld.

ONE!  
TWO!  
THREE!  
OKAY!

**THE  
THREE  
PRISM  
RIVER  
SIS-  
TERS!**

**WE  
ARE!**

*Prismriver*

**BONDS OF LOVE**

Narumi Yuki



I  
CAN'T  
GO  
ON!

OH  
NO,  
SIS!

OW!  
MY  
HANDS!

BUT  
WE CAN'T  
JUST  
STOP  
HERE.

THERE'S  
NOT  
MUCH  
TIME  
BEFORE  
THE  
PERFORM-  
ANCE.

THAT'S  
EASY FOR  
YOU TO  
SAY,  
YOU'RE  
TAKING IT  
EASY IN  
THE  
MIDDLE!

AND  
YOU'RE  
THE  
YOUNG-  
EST!  
WHY ARE  
YOU  
IN THE  
MIDDLE!?

MERLIN!

THE  
THUS-  
SILENT  
LUNASA!

YEAH!  
YEAH!

LYRICA!

All  
three  
to-  
gether!!

HM,  
WELL,  
WHY  
DON'T  
WE TRY  
A POSE  
WHERE  
YOU'RE  
IN THE  
MIDDLE,  
THEN?



The  
three  
Prism  
river  
sis-  
ters!!



I'VE  
BEEN  
THINKING  
THIS FOR  
A WHILE,  
BUT YOU'RE  
KIND OF  
SELF-  
CENTERED,  
MERLIN.

DON'T  
STATE  
YOUR  
OPINIONS  
TO YOUR  
ELDERS  
SO  
CARE-  
LESSLY!!

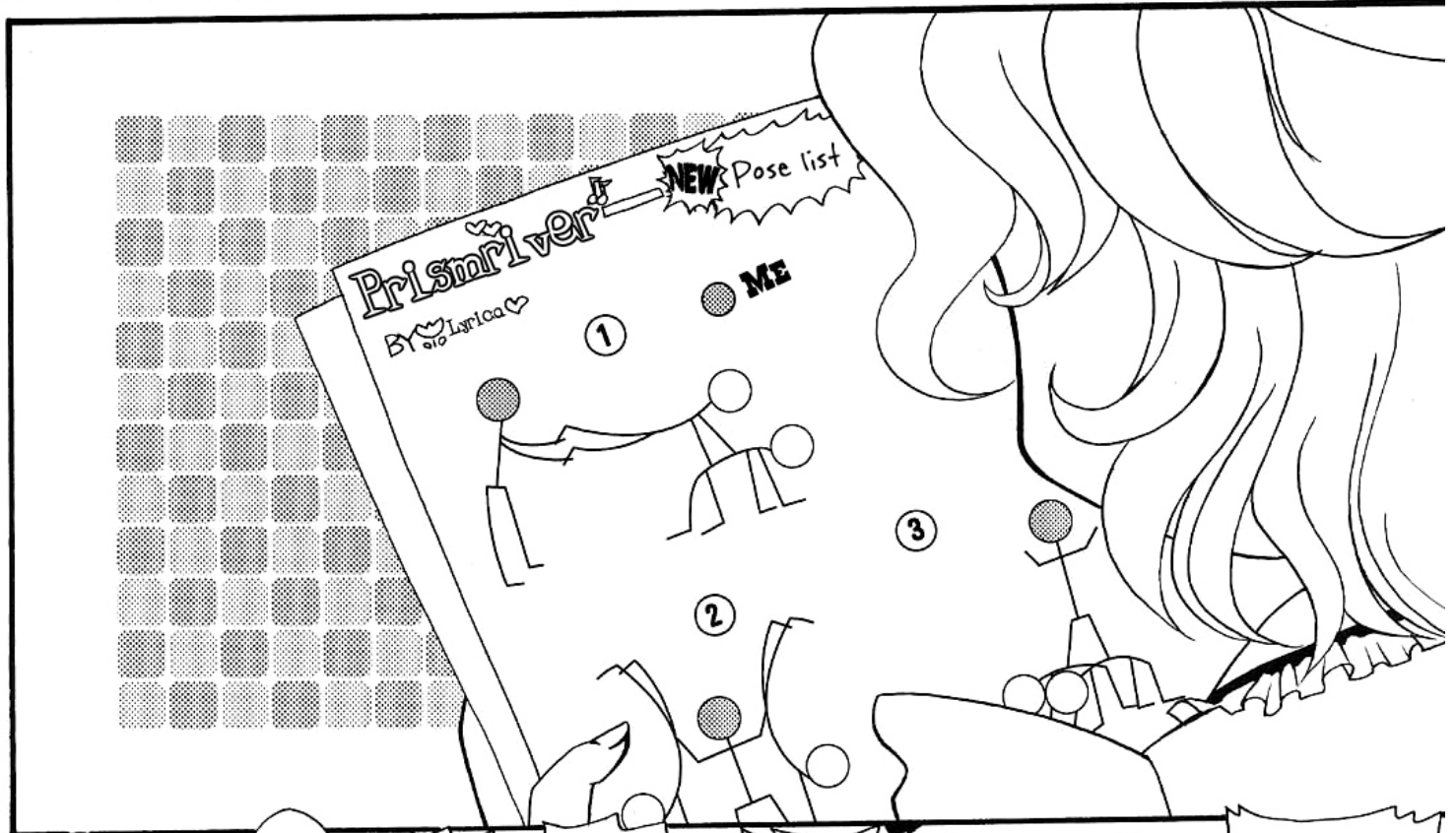
HUH?  
WELL,  
YOU GOT  
TO BE  
IN THE  
MIDDLE,  
RIGHT?

DON'T  
YOU  
'RIGHT'  
ME!

YOU'RE  
DOING  
THIS ON  
PUR-  
POSE!!

THIS IS  
HARDER  
THAN  
BEFORE!!  
MUCH  
WORSE!!







**Noisy Sign:  
Random Playing**

**I SAID LISTEN TO MEEEEEE!**

Have  
you finally  
decided to  
listen to your  
wonderful  
big sister,  
you  
morons...

Y-YES..

It's very  
simple,  
so if  
you don't  
shape up,  
I'll send you  
to hell via  
pizzicato.

THE  
PRISM  
RIVERS  
ARE  
INDEPEN-  
DENT  
MUSI-  
CIANS,

AS  
WELL AS  
SISTERS  
WITH DEEP  
BONDS OF  
BLOOD...

WHY  
DON'T  
WE ALL  
POSE  
INDIVIDU-  
ALLY?

UM.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?

WHAT!?

Yes...

NOBODY  
CAN RESIST  
THE FREEDOM  
OF OUR  
EXPRESSION...

The  
THREE MELODIES  
NATURALLY  
COMBINE TO FORM  
A BEAUTIFUL  
HARMONY...

**EACH  
OF OUR  
POSES!!  
THEY WILL  
RISE UP TO  
BECOME A  
PEERLESS  
EXPRESSION  
OF ART!!!**

S-SIS!

The genius  
violinist,  
Lunasa!

The  
celebrated  
trumpeter,  
Merlin!

The  
keyBoard  
ProDiGy,  
Lyrica!

IT'S OKAY IF  
YOU UNDER-  
STAND, MY  
SISTERS!!

SIS,  
I'M SO  
SORRY!  
I WAS  
WRONG!

CAN  
WE  
TRY  
AND  
DO  
IT ALL  
AGAIN  
!?

OH,  
OF  
COURSE!



OUR POWER AS SISTERS  
WILL COMBINE AS ONE!

WE  
ARE!!

THE PRISM RIVER GHOSTLY ENSEMBLE!!!

Our  
art is  
overpower-  
ing...!!

Oh,  
isn't it  
perfect...



SERIOUSLY!?

Didn't we  
totally forget  
to practice  
the songs  
during all of  
that!?

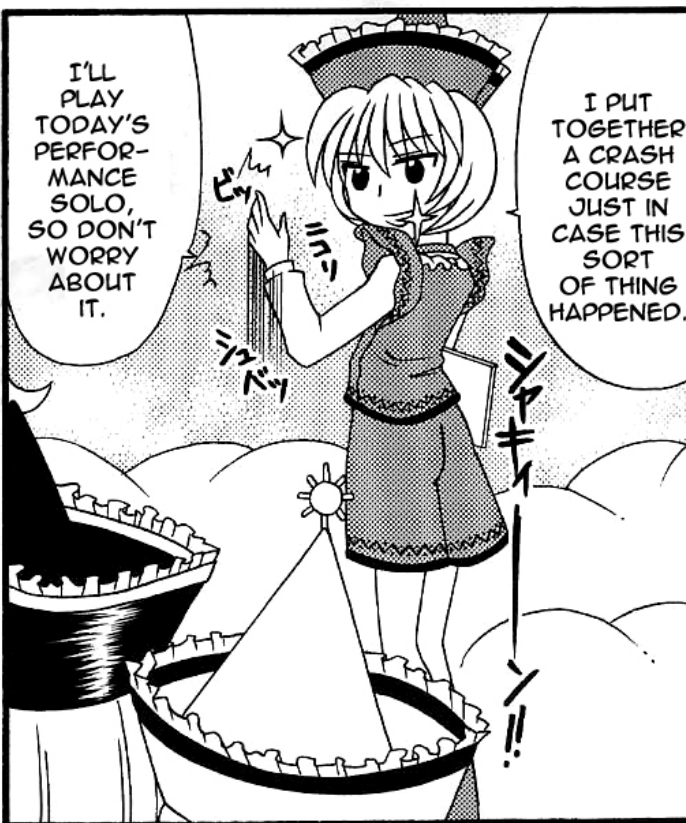
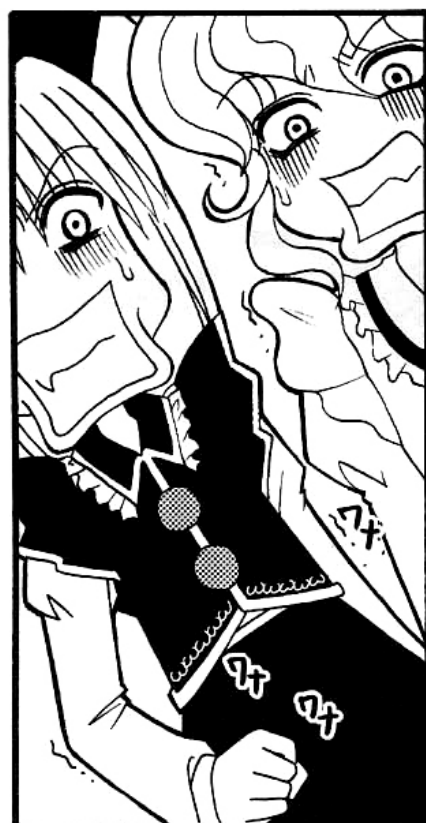
The day  
of the  
performance

CRAAAAAAAAAA  
AAAAAAAAA!



YEAH!!

SO,  
LET'S  
PRACTICE  
IT ALL  
FROM THE  
BEGIN-  
NING!



I'LL  
PLAY  
TODAY'S  
PERFOR-  
MANCE  
SOLO,  
SO DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
IT.

I PUT  
TOGETHER  
A CRASH  
COURSE  
JUST IN  
CASE THIS  
SORT  
OF THING  
HAPPENED.



THAT'S  
OKAY, MY  
FOOLISH  
SISTERS...



DON'T  
CALL  
FOR  
THEM.

HUH?

HEY,  
WHERE  
ARE  
THE  
PRISM-  
RIVERS?

THEY'RE  
SO  
NOISY.



I'LL  
WRACK  
YOUR  
BRAINS  
100  
MILLION  
TIMES  
WITH MY  
VIBRATO!

LYRICA!  
YOU WERE  
PLANNING  
THIS ALL  
ALONG!

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?  
DON'T BE  
JEALOUS  
OF MY  
GENIUS!

THE END



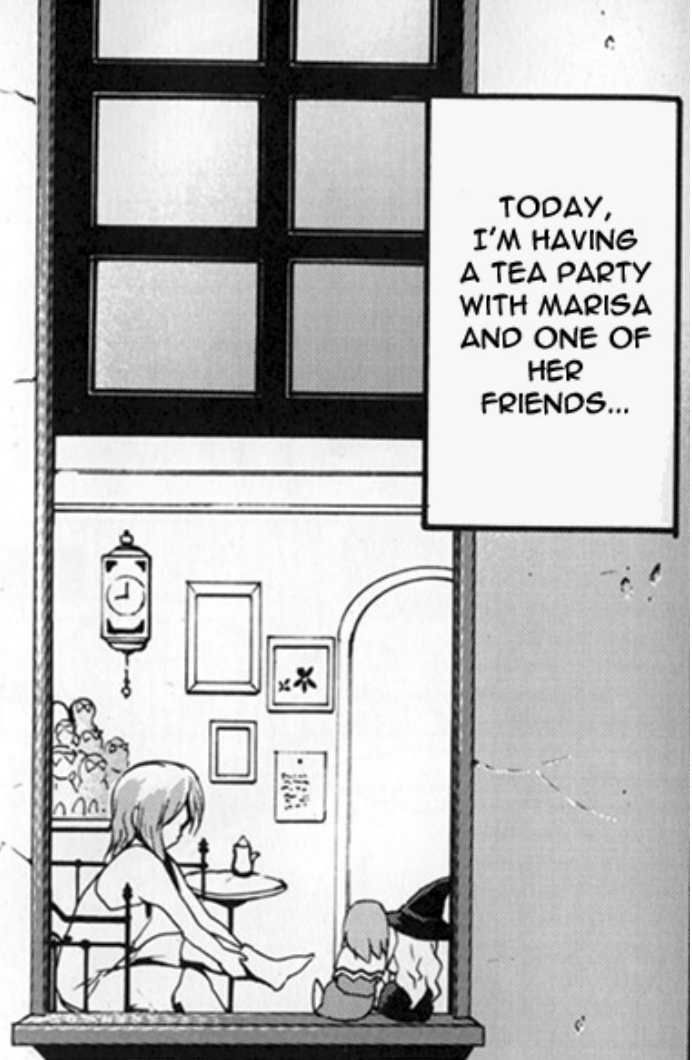


A TEA PARTY?  
WELL... I  
GUESS IT'S  
NOT THAT  
REFINED. IT  
IS MARISA,  
AFTER ALL.



HEHE..  
くす

HMM... IS  
THIS SCARF  
A BIT TOO  
FANCY?  
SHE MIGHT  
SAY SOME-  
THING LIKE,  
"WHAT HAS  
GOTTEN  
INTO YOU?"



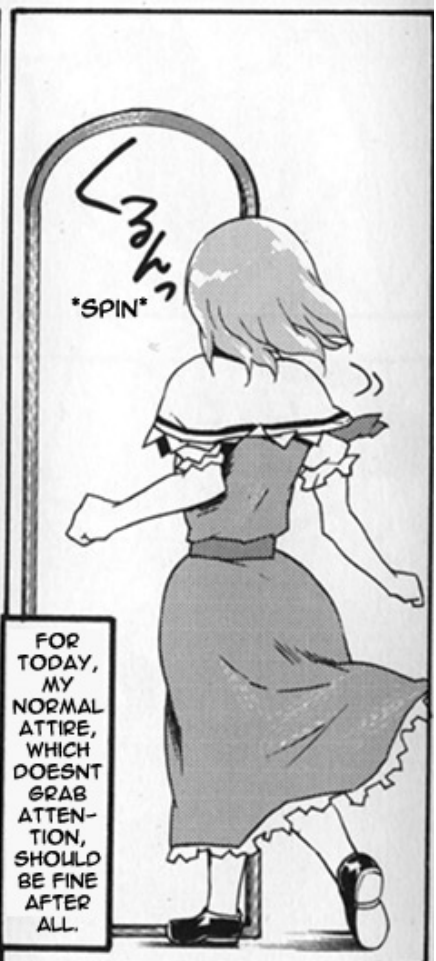
TODAY,  
I'M HAVING  
A TEA PARTY  
WITH MARISA  
AND ONE OF  
HER  
FRIENDS...

## 魔女たちのお茶会

WITCHES' TEA PARTY



GOOD,  
I  
LOOK  
CUTE.  
♥

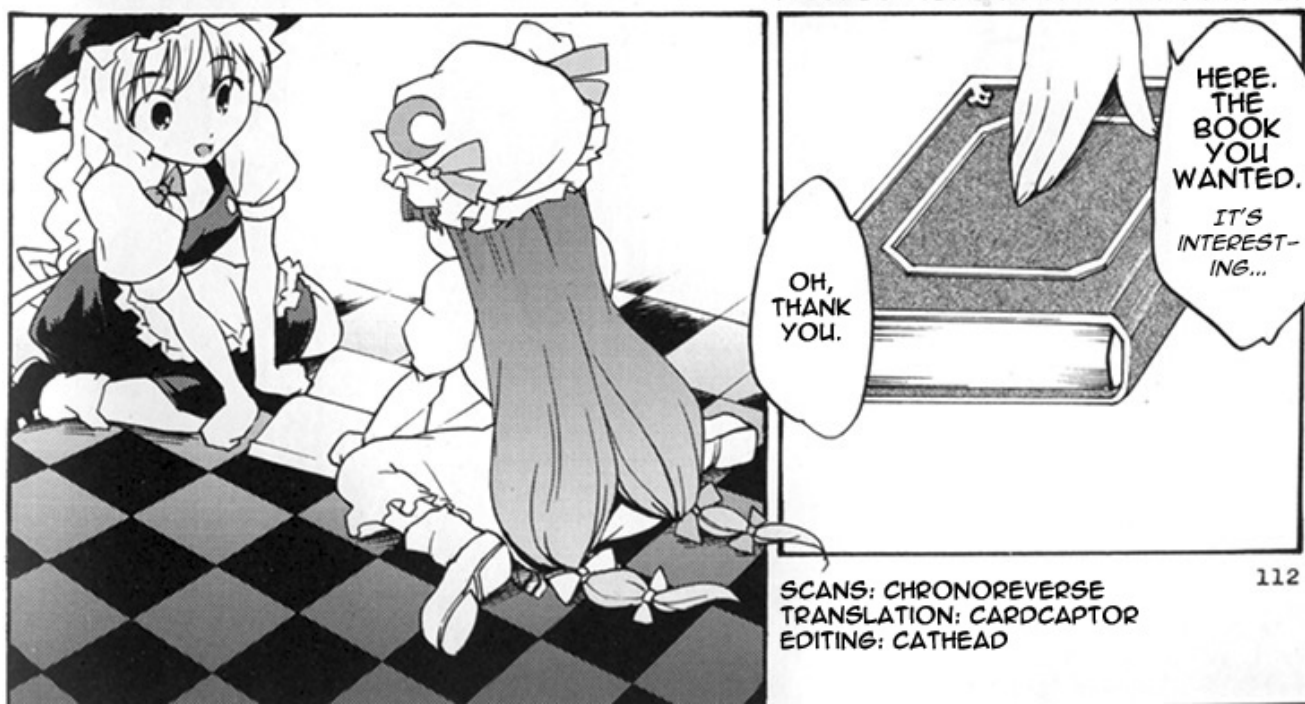


スピ  
\*SPIN\*

FOR  
TODAY,  
MY  
NORMAL  
ATTIRE,  
WHICH  
DOESNT  
GRAB  
ATTEN-  
TION,  
SHOULD  
BE FINE  
AFTER  
ALL.

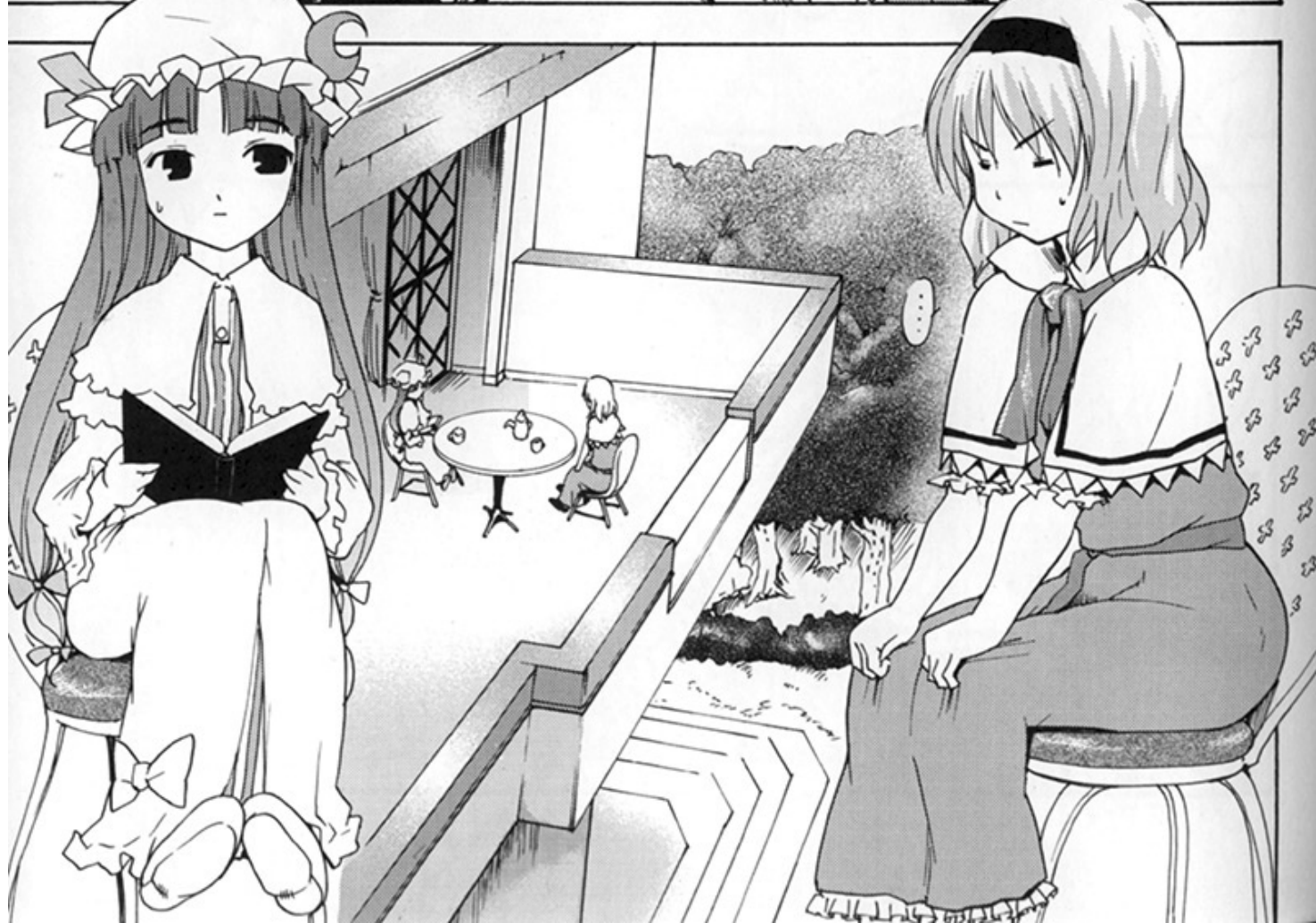


WITCHES' TEA PARTY - FUJIWARA SHUNICHI

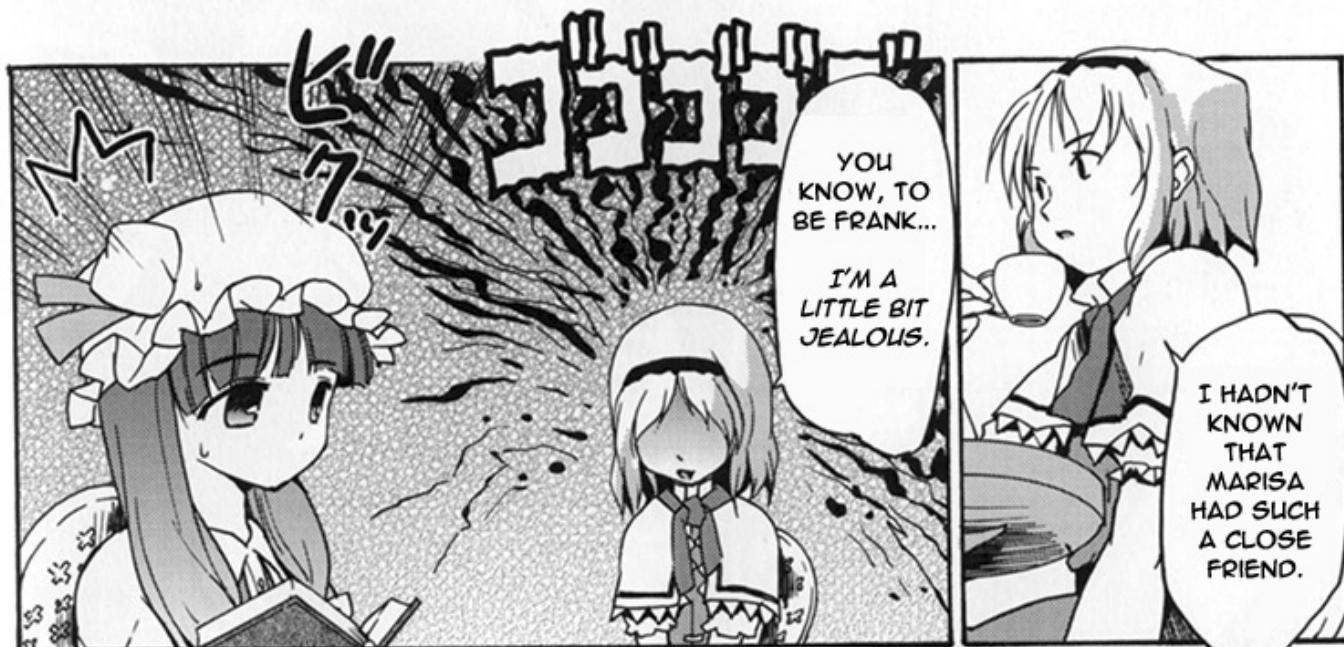


SCANS: CHRONOREVERSE  
TRANSLATION: CARDCAPTOR  
EDITING: CATHEAD

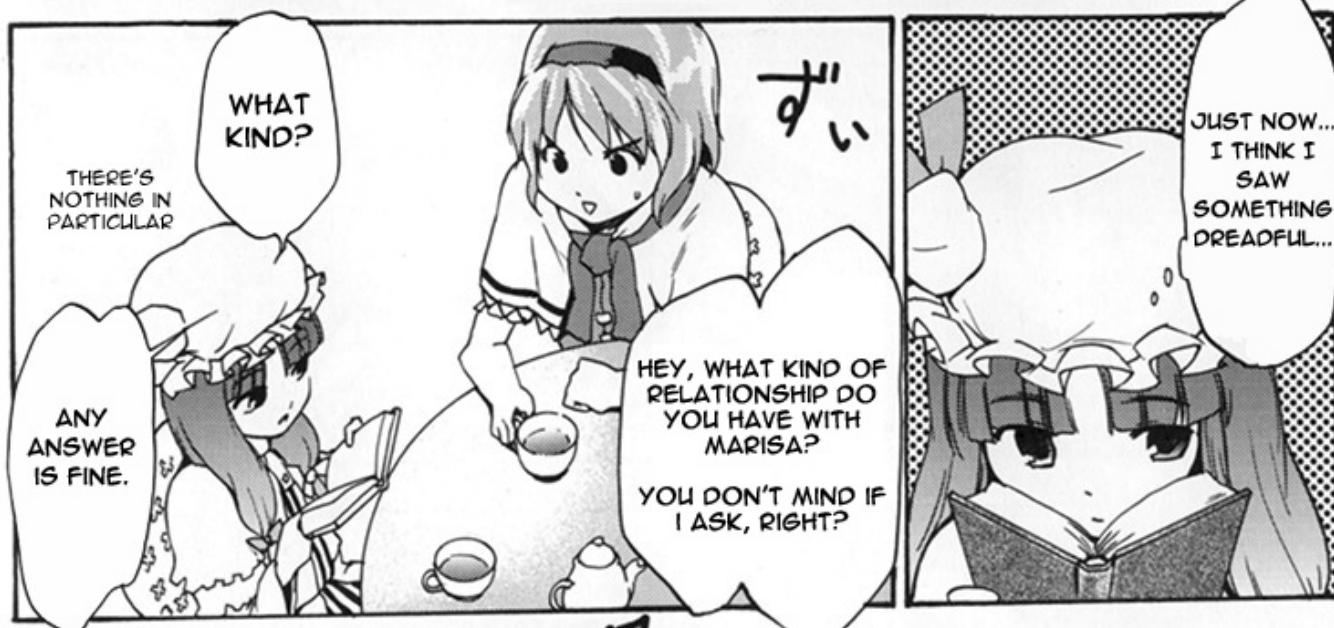








EXTRA B.O.S.S. MODE



3X STRONGER THAN A SNEEZE CAUSED BY A COLD

SHE'S EVEN  
MUMBLING  
TO  
HERSELF...  
DOES THIS  
MEAN HER  
STORY IS  
TRUE?!

SHE  
DOESN'T  
LOOK AT  
MY FACE  
WHILE  
SHE'S  
TALKING...

BEFORE I  
REALIZED  
IT, SHE  
HAD  
SNATCHED  
IT AWAY,  
IN THE  
BLINK OF  
AN EYE...

SHE WAS  
SO PUSHY  
AT THE  
TIME...

\*WIPE\* \*WIPE\*

ごしごし

WHAT KIND  
OF PRECIOUS  
THING ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?



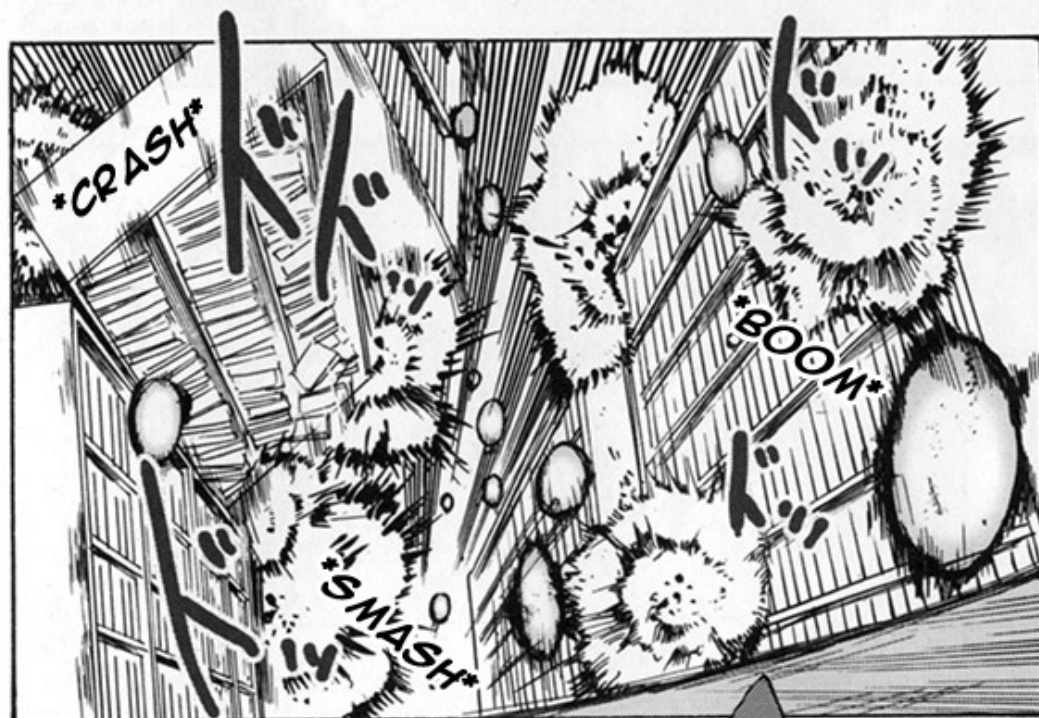
IT'S  
MARISA'S  
SPECIALTY,  
AFTER ALL.

BUT... IT'S  
PROBABLY  
NOT JUST MY  
PRECIOUS  
THING THAT  
WAS TAKEN  
AWAY.



\*DRIP\*  
\*DRIP\*







...HUH?

I HEARD FROM  
PATCHOULI...

...THAT YOU ARE  
**THAT** KIND OF  
PERSON!

IN ANY CASE...

**I WON'T  
FORGIVE YOU  
THIS TIME!**

**MAGIC SIGN -  
「ARTFUL  
SACRIFICE!」**

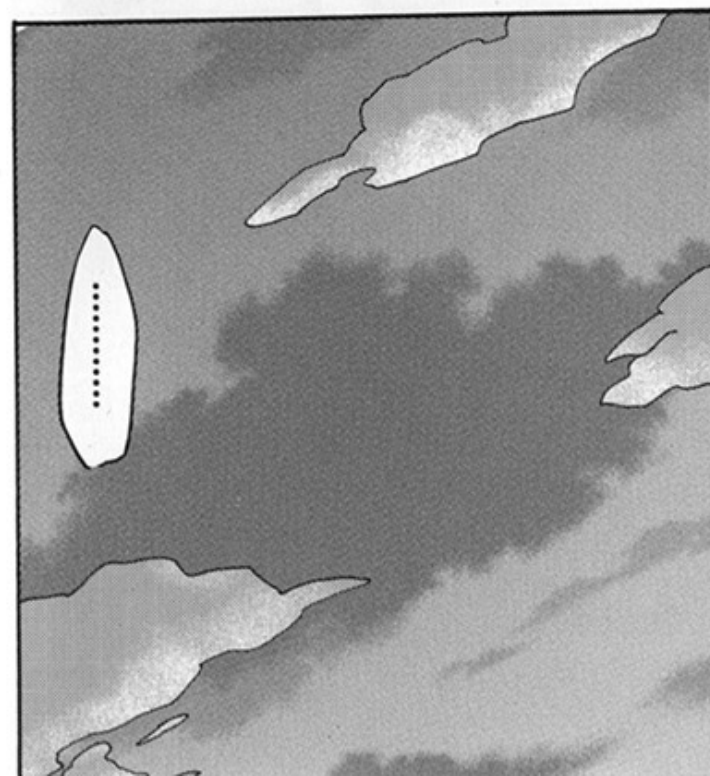
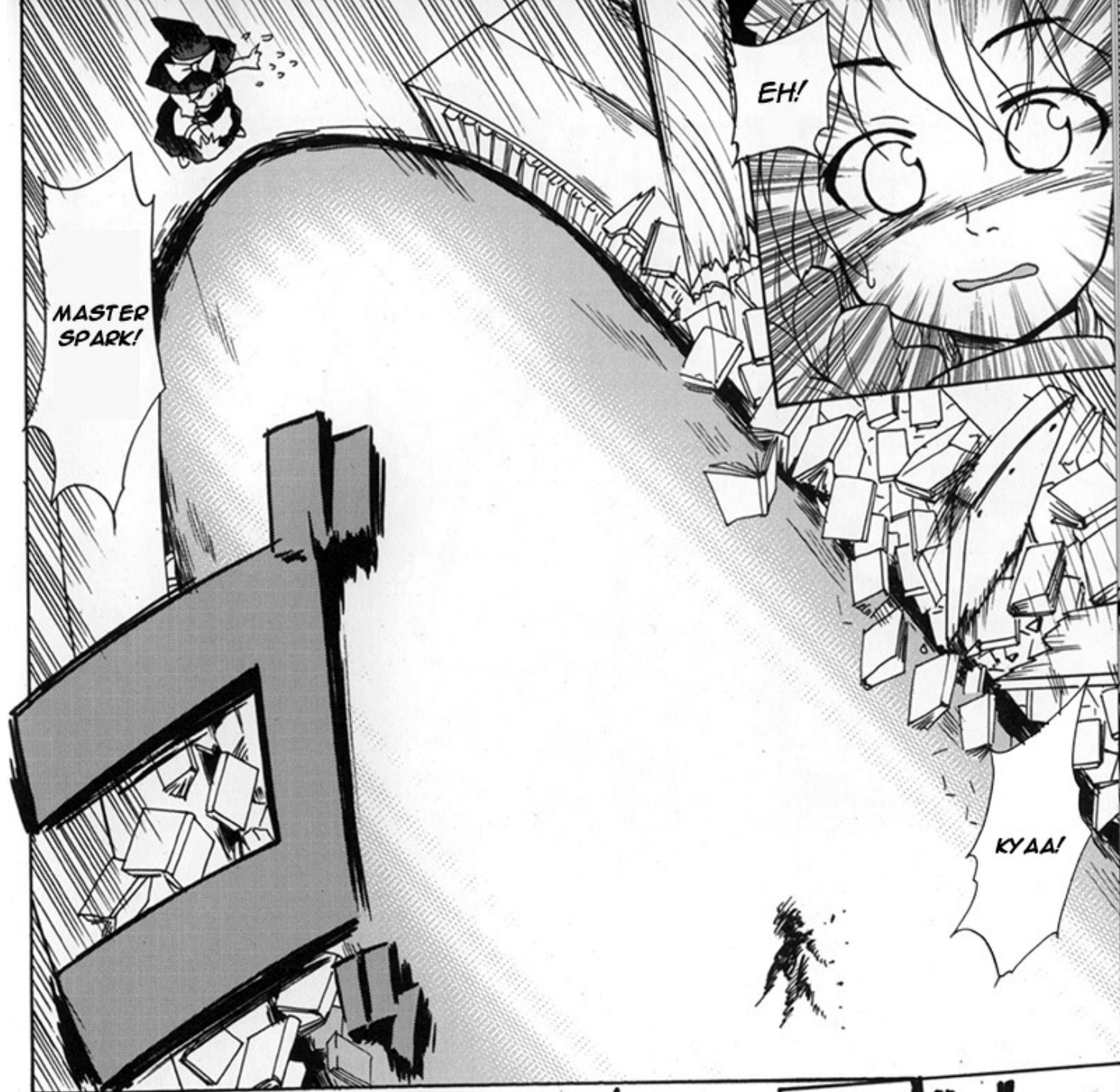
AREN'T YOU  
MISUNDER-  
STANDING  
SOMETHING?

FOR ME...  
IF IT'S  
YOU...

I EVEN  
OFFERED  
YOU...

ゴニョゴニョ...



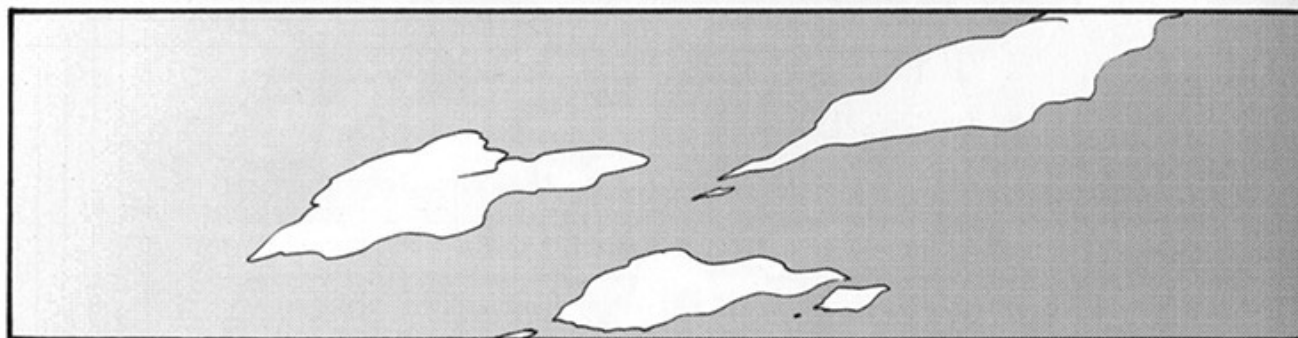




ピッ  
"PSSHH"

MY GOOD  
CLOTHES HAVE  
BEEN RUINED...

MARISA...  
SHE DIDN'T  
HOLD BACK  
ONE BIT.



RIGHT. JUDGING FROM TODAY,  
SHE DOES GET ALONG WITH  
MARISA BETTER THAN I DO.  
SEEING HER BEING SUITABLE  
FOR MARISA KIND OF MAKES  
ME THINK THAT MY RELATION-  
SHIP WITH MARISA IS MUCH  
MORE INSUBSTANTIAL.

YEAH, THAT'S PROBABLY IT...

AHH... SHOULD  
I JUST GIVE  
UP?

THERE IS THAT  
RIVAL...

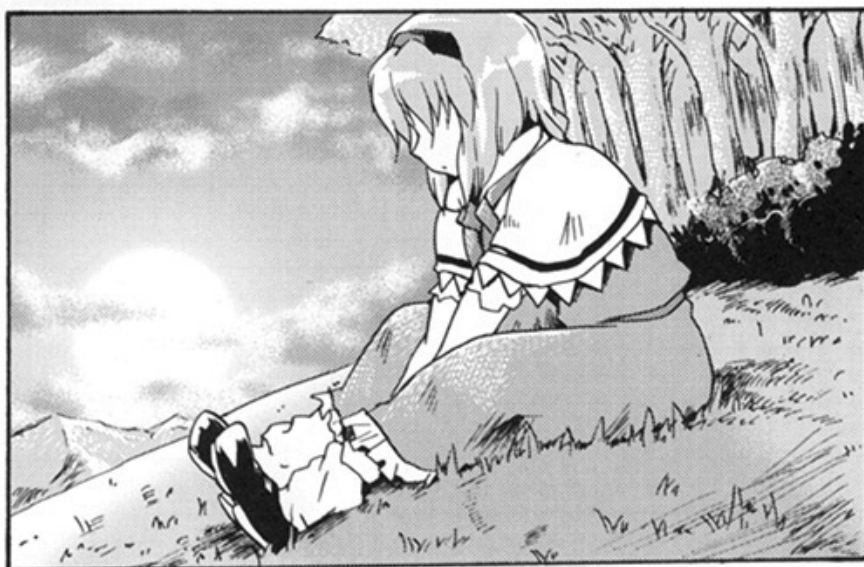


"WIPE"  
"WIPE"

THANK  
YOU,  
SHANGHAI  
DOLL.



"SNIFF"







OH,  
THERE  
YOU  
ARE!



SO I  
SENT  
YOU  
FLYING  
ALL THE  
WAY  
OVER  
HERE!



PATCHOU  
IS NOT  
WITH  
YOU?

YES?

HEY  
MARISA,  
ARE  
YOU  
ALONE?

SHE'S  
NOT  
HERE,  
BUT...

....

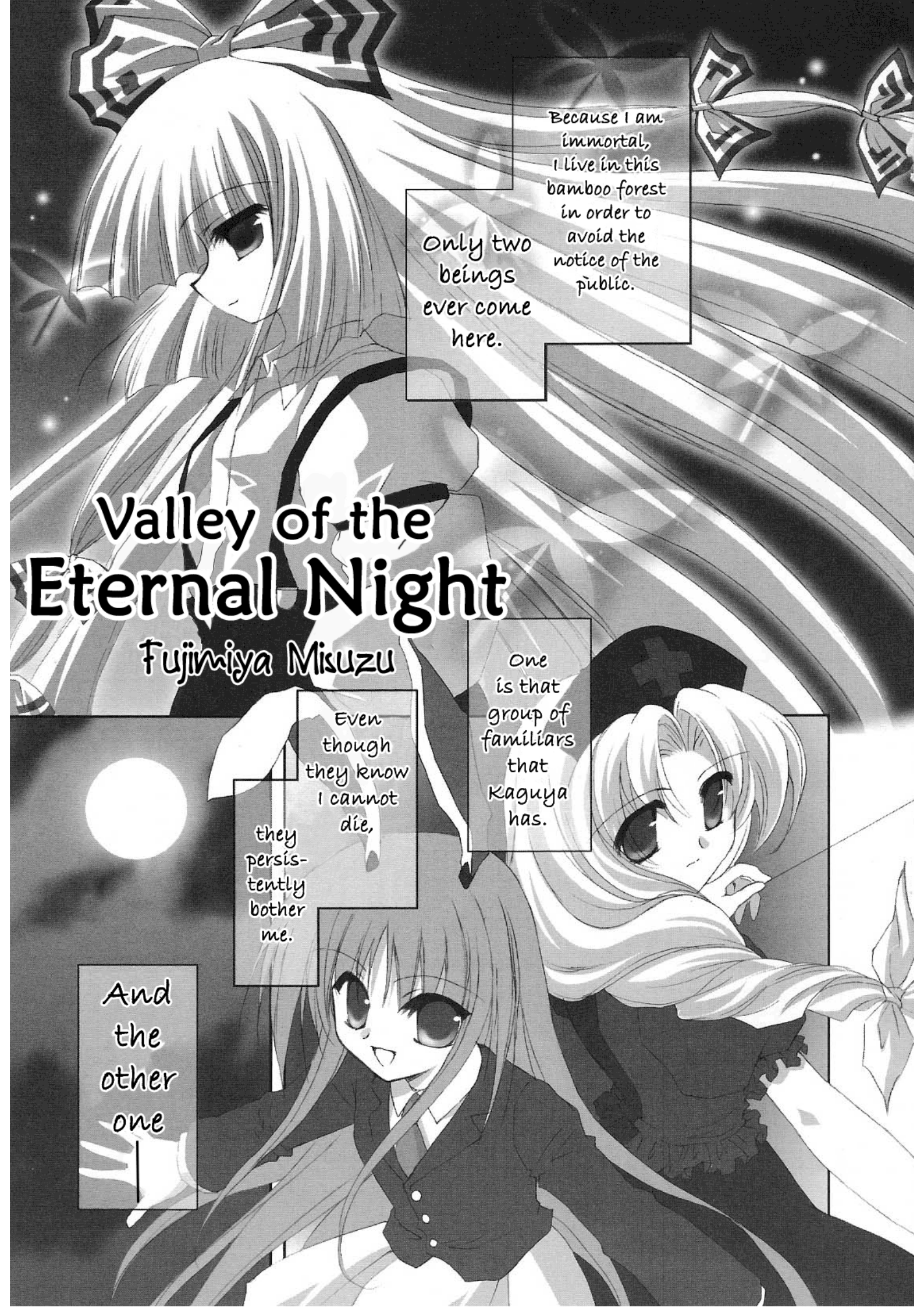
GEEZ... I HAVE BEEN  
LOOKING FOR YOU!  
MY MAGIC IS PRETTY  
OVERPOWERING,  
HUH? AFTER ALL,  
DANMAKU NEEDS  
POWER!



**END**

IN THE END, ALICE STILL MISUNDERSTOOD MARISA AND PATCHOULI'S RELATIONSHIP...





Because I am  
immortal,  
I live in this  
bamboo forest  
in order to  
avoid the  
notice of the  
public.

Only two  
beings  
ever come  
here.

# Valley of the Eternal Night

Fujimiya Misuzu

One  
is that  
group of  
familiar  
that  
Kaguya  
has.

Even  
though  
they know  
I cannot  
die,

they  
persis-  
tently  
bother  
me.

And  
the  
other  
one





The moon tonight is so pretty!

Hey, Mokou.

is  
kami-  
shira-  
sawa  
Keine.



HM?  
WHAT  
IS IT,  
MOKOU?



I'VE BEEN  
THINKING  
THIS FOR  
A WHILE  
NOW.

...OI,  
KEINE.



WHY IS IT  
THAT YOU'RE  
STICKING SO  
CLOSE TO  
ME LIKE  
THIS?

**EMPHA-  
SIS.**

Direction of  
the wind

*I JUST  
THOUGHT  
YOU  
WERE  
COLD!!*

**I'M NOT  
STICKING  
TO YOU!!**

WH,  
WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
SAYING,  
MOKOU

She is  
a weird  
fellow,  
or so  
I think.

*SHE  
CERTAINLY  
IS WARM.*

WELL,  
I SUPPOSE  
IT'S  
ALRIGHT  
.....

She's  
strange  
and seems  
rather fond  
of me,

so  
no matter  
what I say,  
she'll  
still  
be here.

**OKAY!**





I DON'T  
REMEMBER  
SAVING  
ONE.

A FOX...?  
NO, IT  
COULDN'T  
BE.

I wonder  
who could  
be doing  
something  
like this.



Why is it  
that there's  
always food  
left out  
at the  
porch?

I first  
met Keine



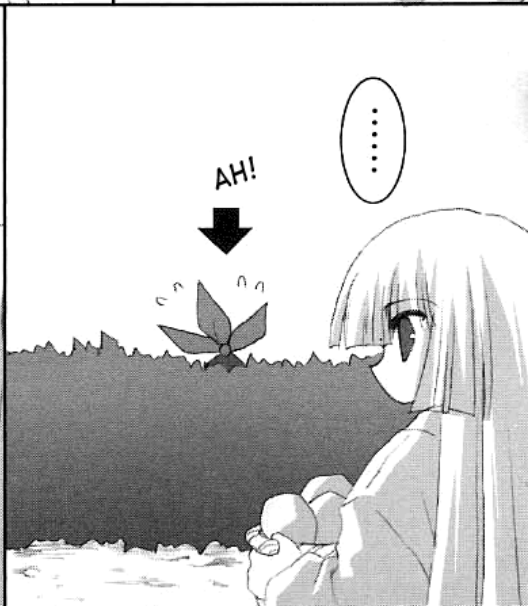
UWAAAA  
AAAA  
YAAA

I CAN  
SEE  
YOUR  
HEAD.

SHOCK

...

AH!



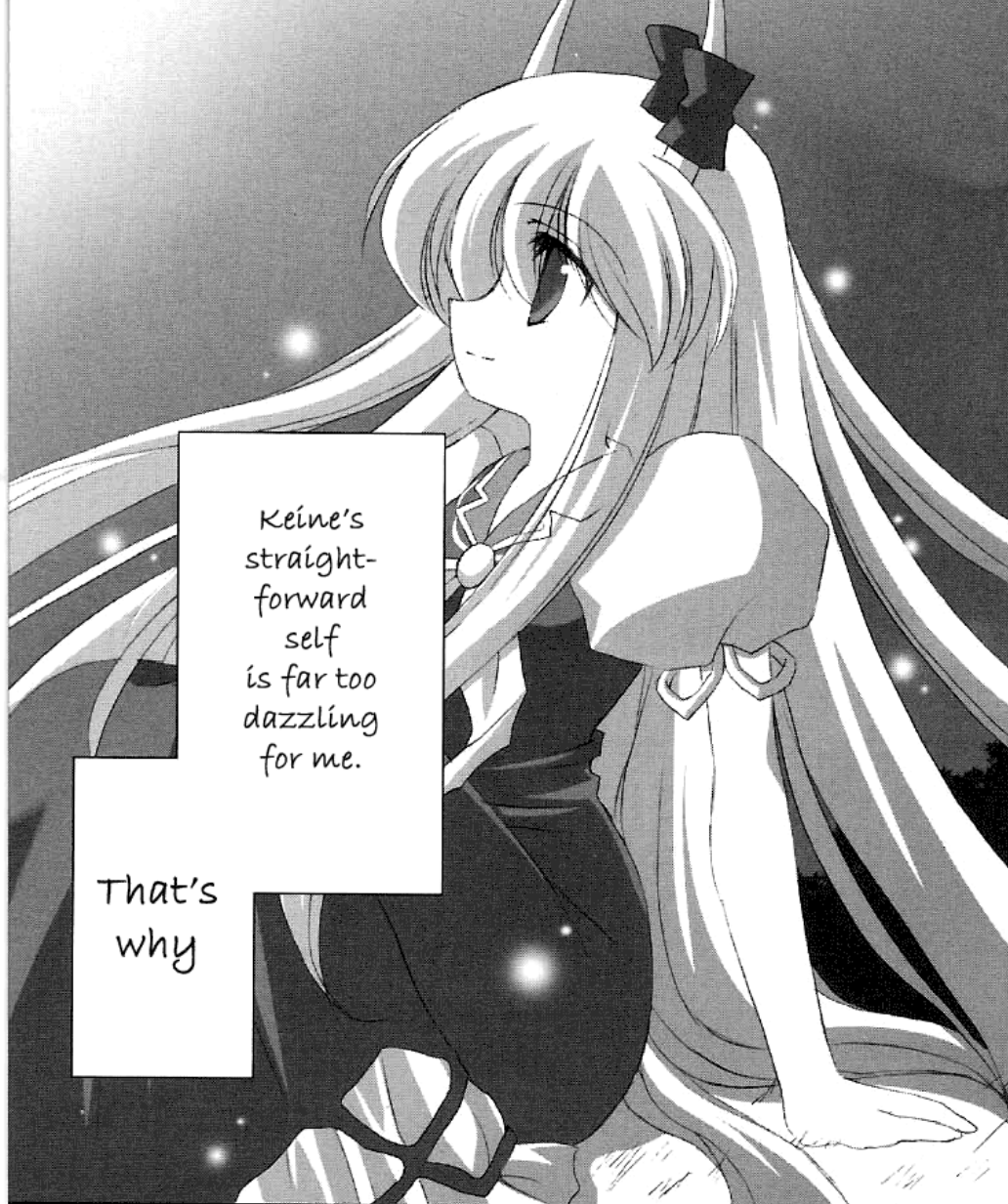
right after  
coming to  
Gensokyo.



Soft-  
hearted,

yet  
nosy.

aha  
Now that  
I think  
about it,  
she was  
always a  
weird person.



Keine's  
straight-  
forward  
self  
is far too  
dazzling  
for me.

That's  
why



Much  
different  
from me  
or Kaguya.



IS THERE  
SOMETHING  
IN MY  
HAIR?

WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
MOKOU?



YOU  
ARE...  
BEAU-  
TIFUL.

NO.



I,  
uninten-  
tionally,  
just  
want to  
tease  
her.

smooth...





TO THE  
POINT  
THAT I  
WANT TO  
EAT YOU.

TRULY  
BEAUTIFUL.



HAVE  
A  
TASTE?

COULD  
I



Wah,  
Wah  
...!!

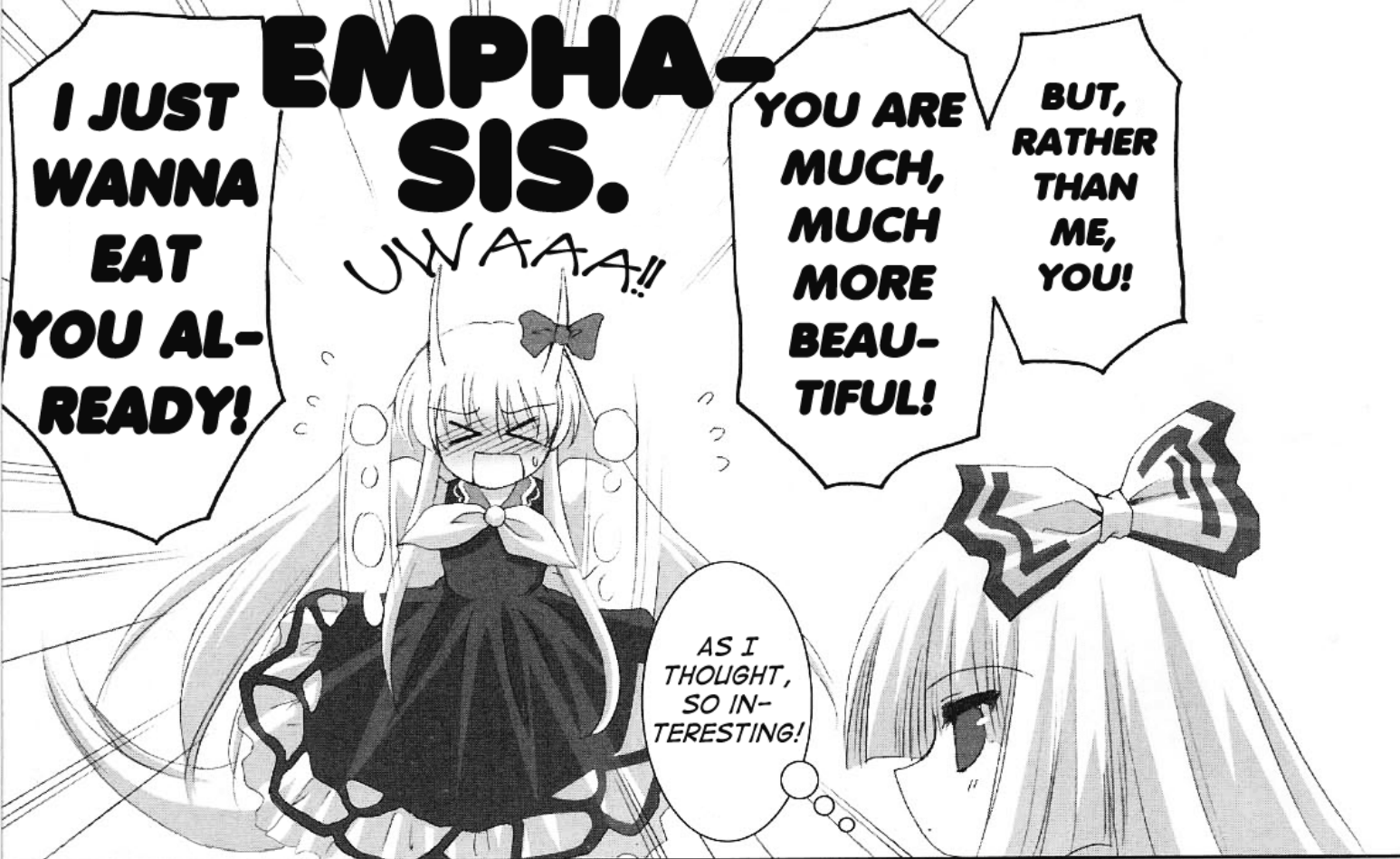
THUMP

THUMP

AH  
...

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING,  
MOKOU  
.....

WH-







will  
repeat this  
over and  
over,  
for all  
eternity.

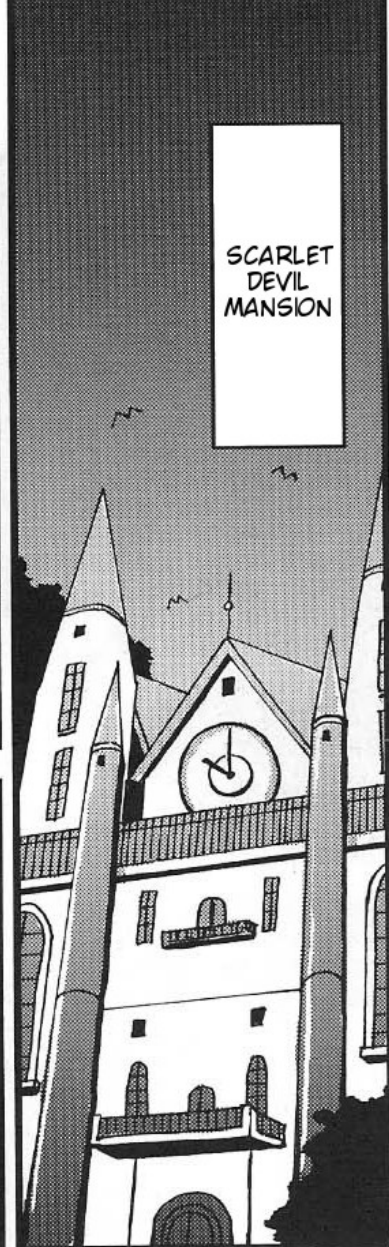
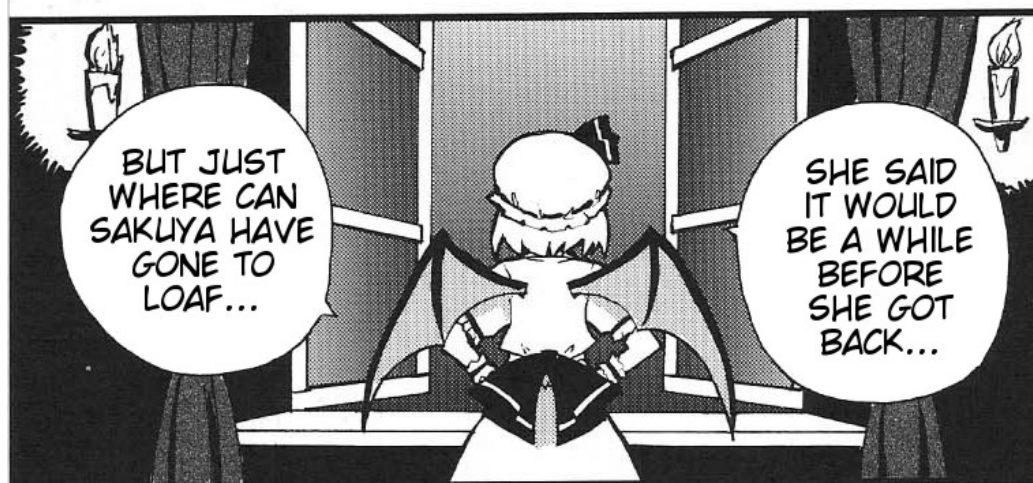
Kaguya  
and I,  
for the  
rest of  
our exis-  
tences,

I'VE BET  
AGAINST  
SUCH  
SAVAGERY  
IN THAT  
VALLEY OF  
THE ETERNAL  
NIGHT

I'D BE  
HAPPY IF  
THEY  
FINISHED IT  
TONIGHT,  
BUT...

TONIGHT,  
AS WELL.

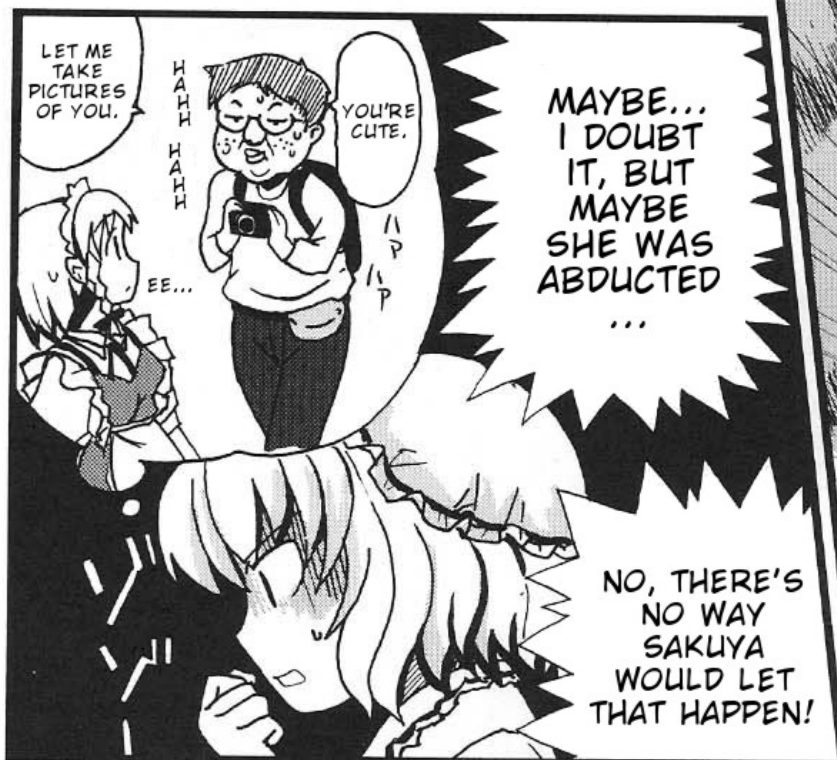
END



BEYOND RIVALS, NOT QUITE NATURAL ENEMIES







LET ME  
TAKE  
PICTURES  
OF YOU.

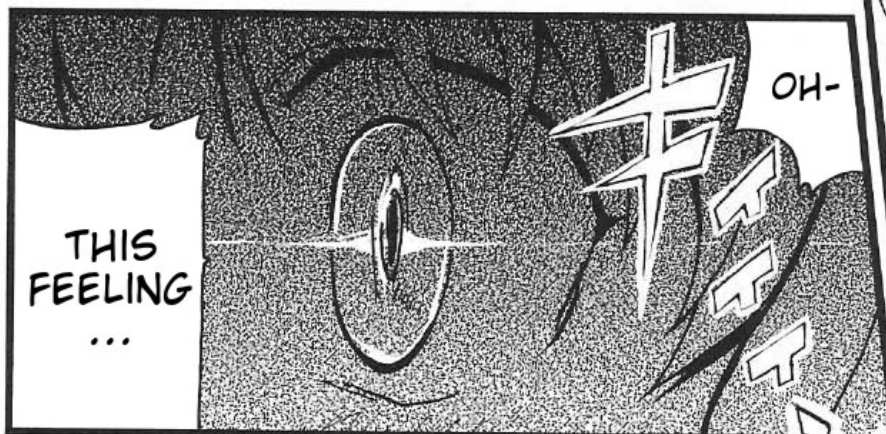
HAH H  
HAH H

YOU'RE  
CUTE.

HP  
HP

MAYBE...  
I DOUBT  
IT, BUT  
MAYBE  
SHE WAS  
ABDUCTED  
...

NO, THERE'S  
NO WAY  
SAKUYA  
WOULD LET  
THAT HAPPEN!



THIS  
FEELING  
...

OH-

IT  
IT  
IT



G R A A A H !!

WHERE  
DID  
SAKUYA  
GO!!!

COME  
BACK  
AND  
MAKE  
DINNER  
ALREADY  
!!!



BEYOND RIVALS, NOT QUITE NATURAL ENEMIES

宿敵以上天敵未満

YAMAI  
病

SAIG-  
YOU-  
JI  
!!!

...  
SHE  
DID  
IT,  
HUH?

I SEE  
...  
THAT'S  
HOW  
IT IS!





MY  
FINAL  
SPELL-  
CARD!!

SO  
NOW  
...

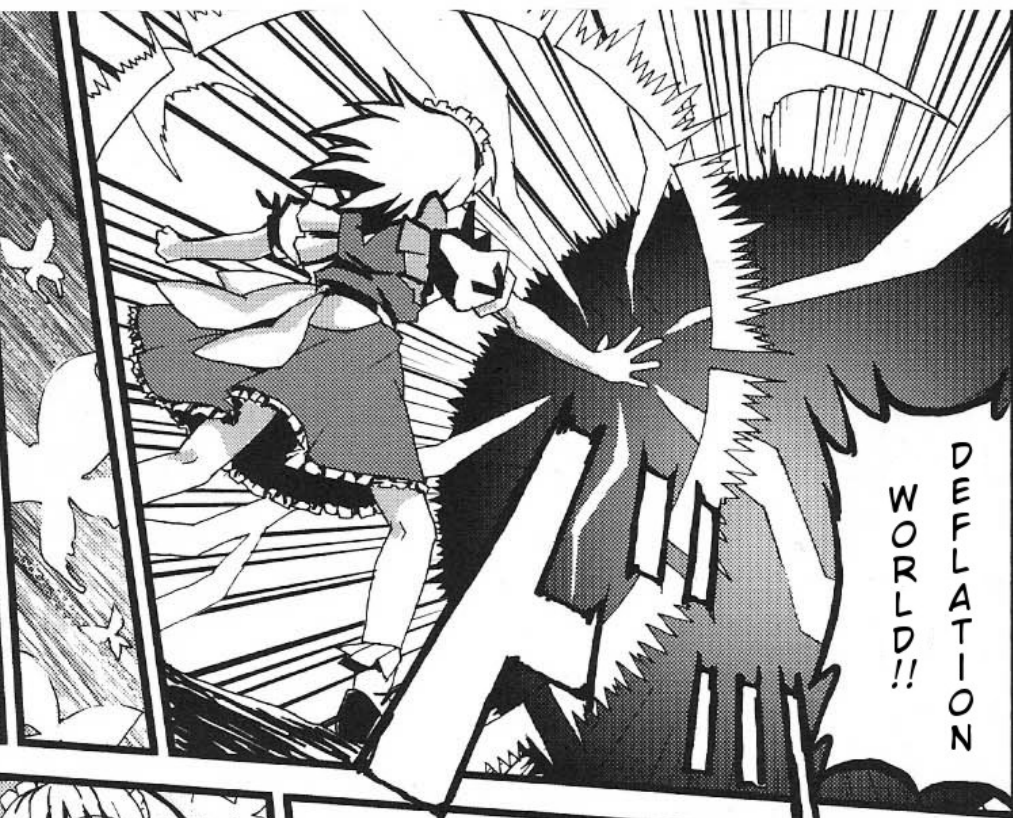
LET'S  
BRING  
THIS  
TO AN  
END!!

...

DON'T  
THINK  
SO  
!!!

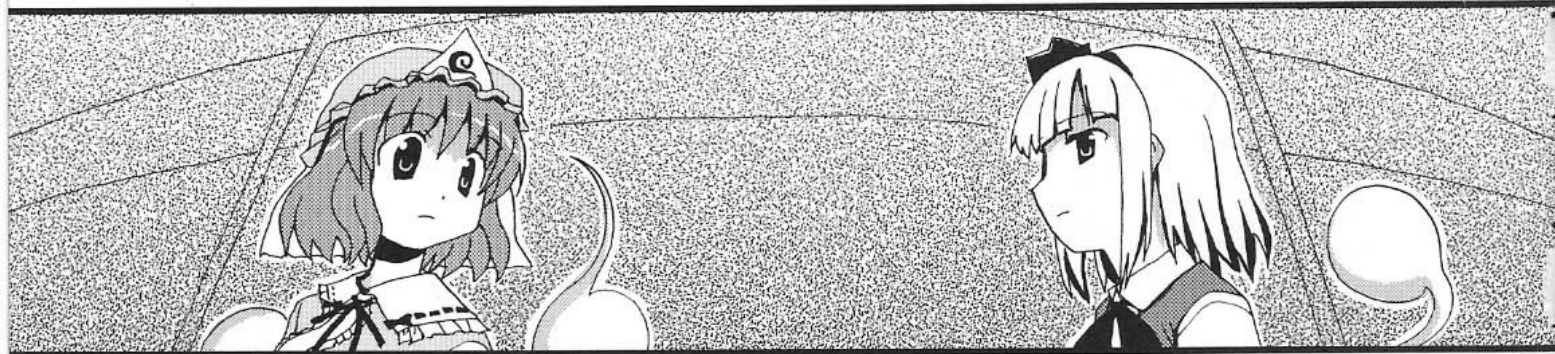
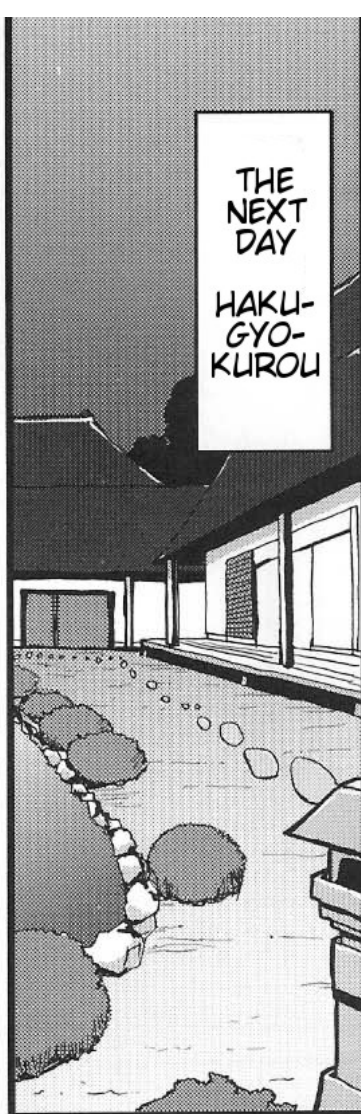
NOW  
WANDER  
ABOUT  
IN THIS  
DIMENSION  
FOR  
ETERNITY  
!!!

SORRY,  
BUT  
THIS IS  
CHECK-  
MATE!!











...NO  
NEVER-  
MIND.

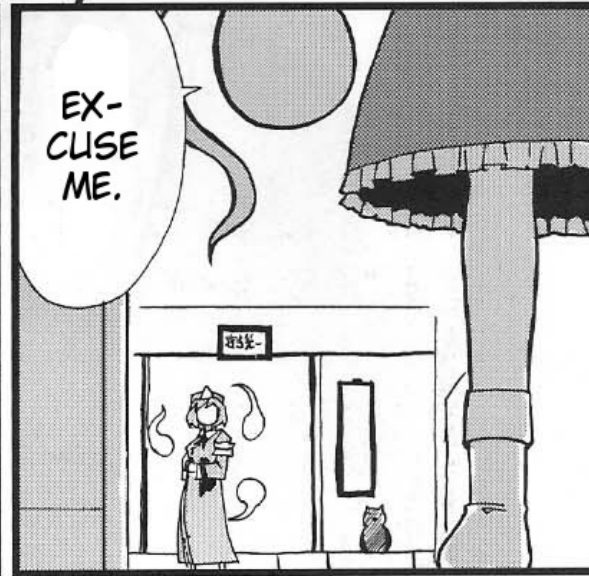


WAY I  
COULD-  
THERE  
IS NO



—  
SHEESH

SUCH A  
TROUBLE-  
SOME  
GIRL.

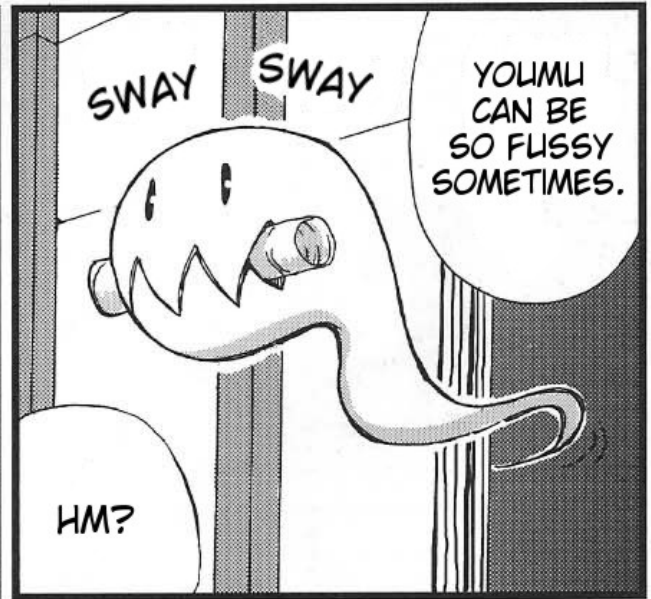


EX-  
CLUSE  
ME.



A  
LETTER  
?

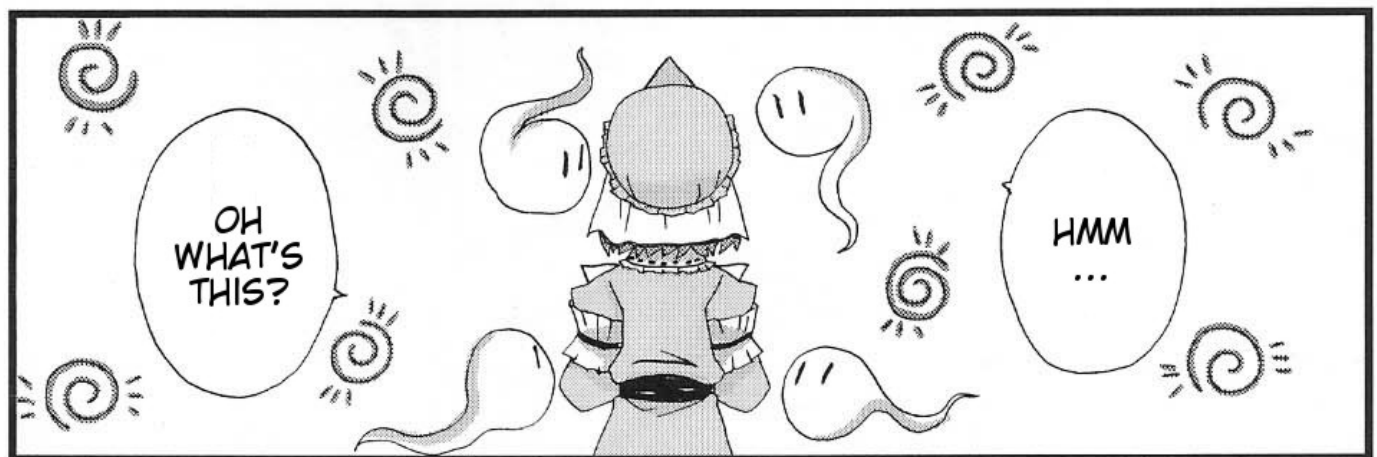
I  
WONDER  
WHO  
IT'S  
FROM.



SWAY  
SWAY

YOU'LL  
CAN BE  
SO FUSSY  
SOMETIMES.

HM?

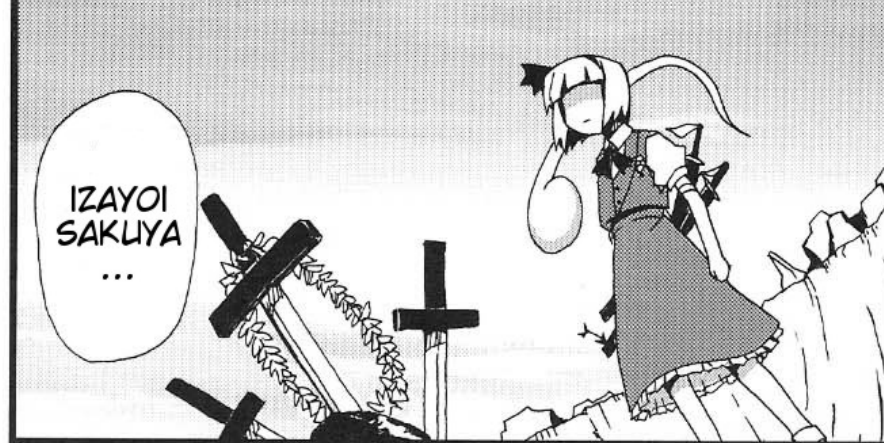


OH  
WHAT'S  
THIS?

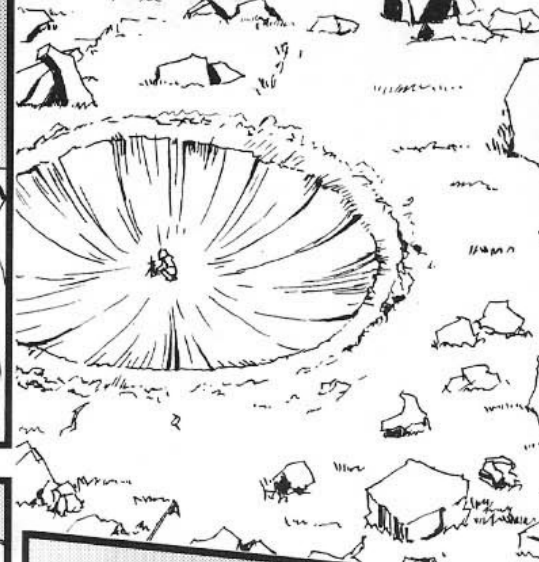
HMM  
...



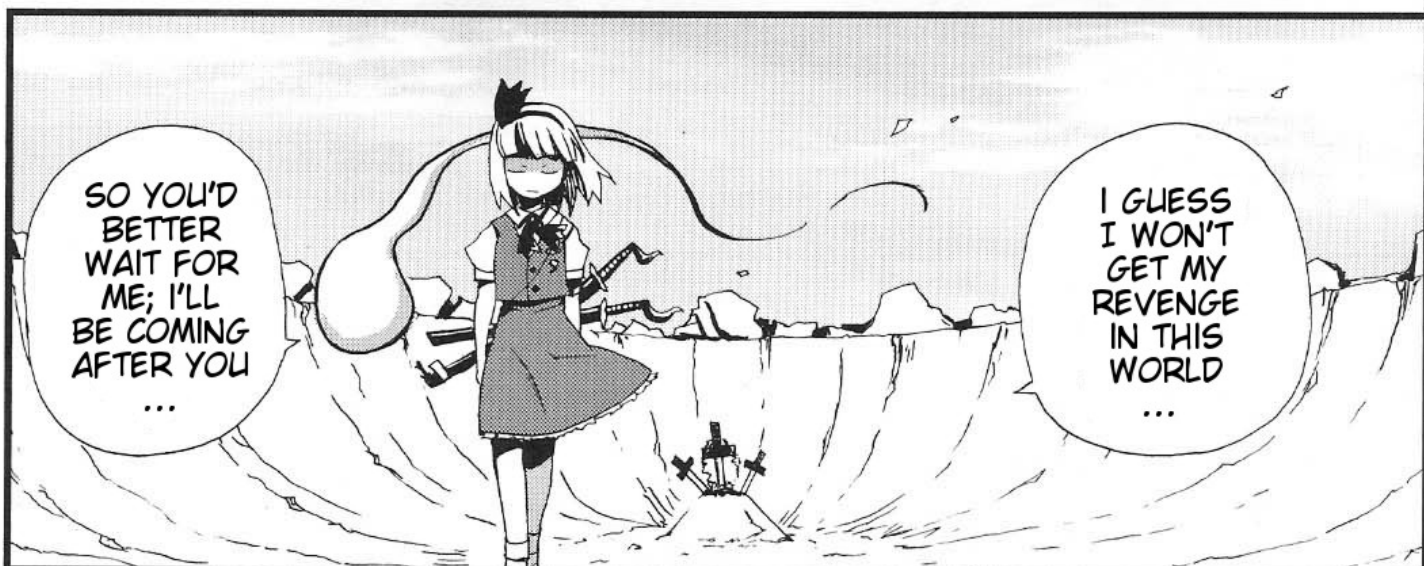
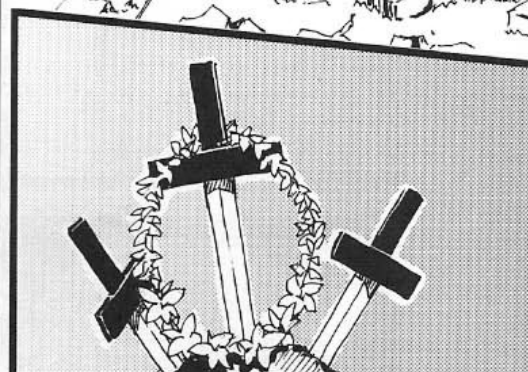




IZAYOI  
SAKUYA  
...



I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
THE END  
WOULD BE  
LIKE THIS  
...



SO YOU'D  
BETTER  
WAIT FOR  
ME; I'LL  
BE COMING  
AFTER YOU  
...

I GUESS  
I WON'T  
GET MY  
REVENGE  
IN THIS  
WORLD  
...



THAT  
VOICE  
!?

IT'S NOT  
NICE TO  
WRITE  
PEOPLE  
OFF LIKE  
THAT.





WELL  
THAT'S  
WHAT I  
THOUGHT,  
BUT  
...

YOU  
OUGHT TO  
BE ABOUT  
READY BY  
NOW, YES?

IN  
ANY  
CASE  
...

SO  
...

SORRY  
TO GET  
YOUR  
HOPES  
UP, BUT  
I'LL TAKE  
A RAIN  
CHECK.

BEFORE  
I GOT  
OUT, I  
THOUGHT  
I WOULD  
DIE OF  
HUNGER  
...

ACTUALLY  
I'M SO  
HUNGRY  
I COULD  
DIE, I'VE BEEN  
WANDERING  
ABOUT HUNGRY  
FOR SO LONG  
...

GYUUUU

G-GO  
T-...  
TOGE-  
...

I...

I-I-I-IF  
IT'S  
OKAY...  
MAYBE  
WE  
C-COULD  
...

I KNOW  
A REALLY  
GOOD  
RESTAU-  
RANT  
AROUND  
HERE!!

THE  
END

H- WHAT  
!?  
WAIT A  
MINUTE!  
...  
HEY, I SAID  
WAIT!!!

WELL,  
LET'S  
GO.

INCIDENTALLY,  
I LOST MY  
BAG THERE,  
SO YOU'LL  
HAVE TO  
TREAT ME.

YI  
YEAH!

WHY  
DON'T  
WE GO,  
THEN?

I ABSO-  
LUTELY  
CANNOT  
REFUSE  
ANY RECOM-  
MENDATIONS  
NOW.



MATCH  
IS  
MINE.

OW  
...

NOW  
THEN.

SHRINE MAIDEN'S  
**巫女さんの**  
SMALL SPRING SEARCH  
**小さな春さがし**  
HARAO



I SAID  
I DIDN'T  
GATHER  
ANY!

WHY  
ARE YOU  
SETTING  
UP A  
BARRIER?

HOW ABOUT  
HANDING  
OVER ALL  
THE SPRING  
YOU'VE  
GATHERED  
THERE?







AAA-YO!!





WHAT  
THE  
HELL  
IS  
THIS  
?

びり

\*The text says:  
"Naruko with ema".  
Ema is a painted  
board of wood that  
is used to write  
wishes on, naruko is  
a wooden  
clapper used for  
music.



I HOPE  
MOM GETS  
BETTER  
SOON.

I'LL  
DEFINETELY  
PASS.

カラ



DAMN,  
WHAT'S  
THIS  
BARRIER?



WH-  
IT WAS  
YOU,  
REIMU!!

IS THIS  
BARRIER  
EVEN  
OKAY  
SHRINE  
MAIDEN-  
WISE?

GOTCHA  
!!

SPELLCARD: GREAT BARRIER

えまでなるこ  
「絵馬DE鳴子\*」

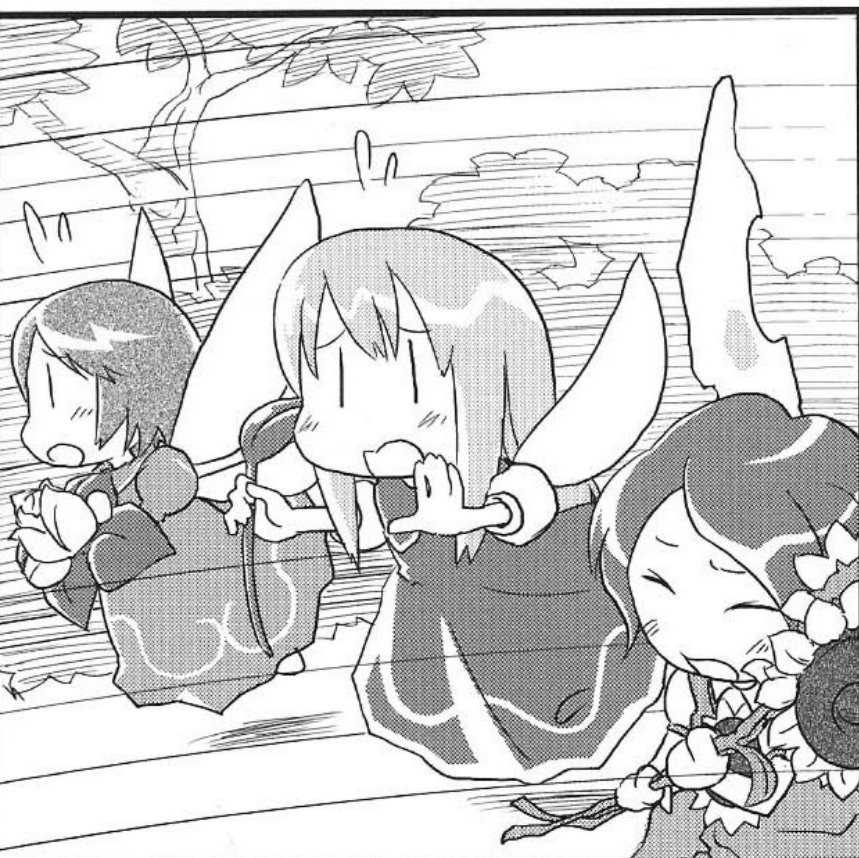
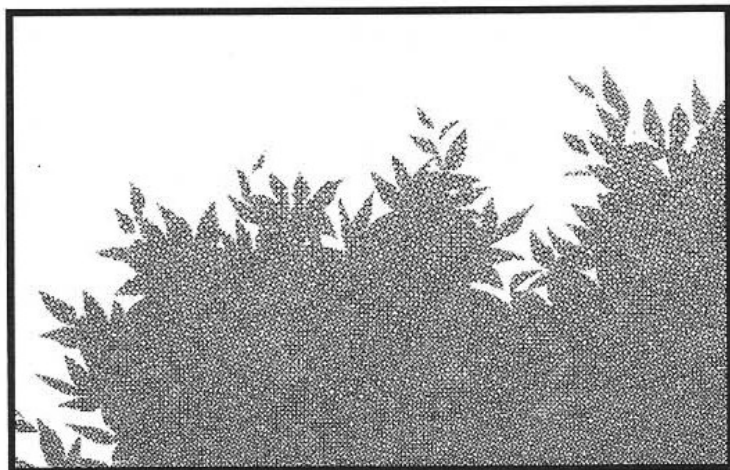




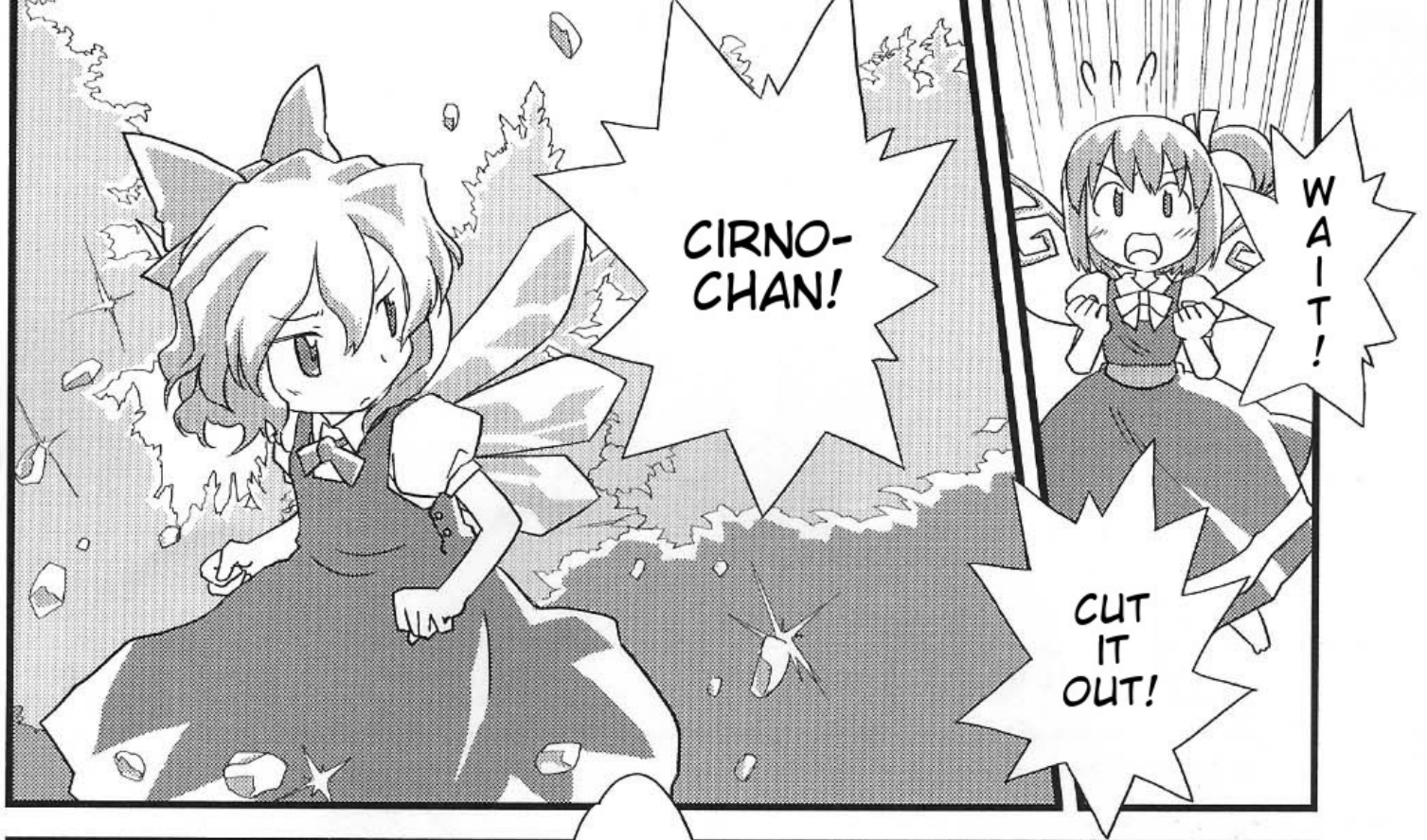


おに ひょうせい  
**Ogre and the Ice Fairy**

キリウ  
**kiriu**







CIRNO-  
CHAN!

WAIT!

CUT  
IT  
OUT!

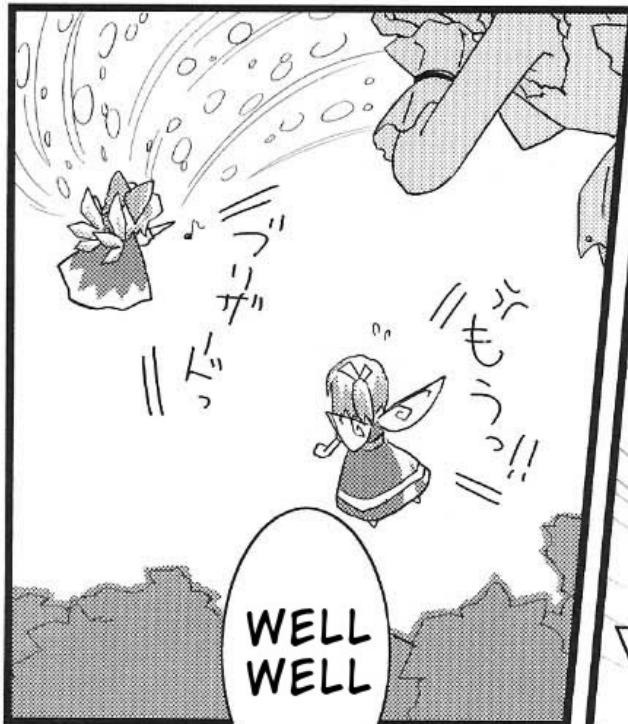


LIKE  
THE  
COLD,

DO  
NOT

THESE  
GUYS  
SAID  
THEY  
SINCE

WHAT  
?



WELL  
WELL



CIRNO-  
CHAN!!

AHA HA

I'LL  
GIVE  
THEM

HA

HA

A LITTLE  
HELP  
GETTING  
USED  
TO IT!

HA HA





THE  
LONE  
BUL-  
LET.

YOU'RE  
ALWAYS  
GIVEN  
THE COLD  
SHOUL-  
DER.

AMONG  
THE  
FAIRIES,  
WHO LOVE  
WARM  
WEATHER,



I'M  
GLAD!

YAY!

I'LL  
PLAY  
WITH  
YOU.

VERY  
WELL.

A CONTEST  
TO PASS  
BESIDE  
THAT AND  
TURN TO  
FACE THE  
SHORE.

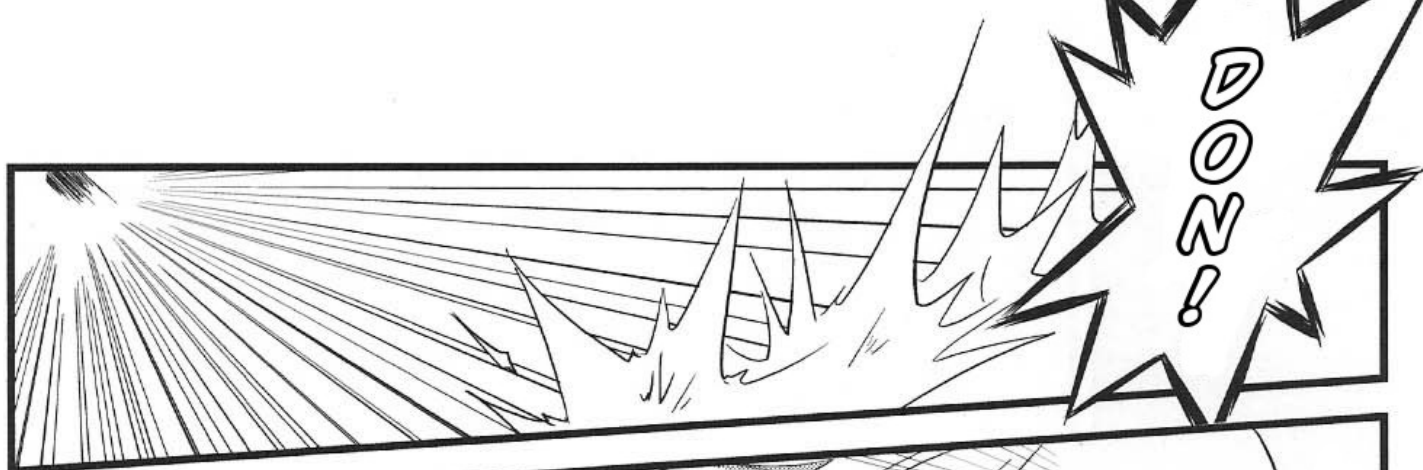
THERE'S  
A RED  
HOUSE  
IN THE  
CENTER  
OF THIS  
LAKE.

I SEE  
IT,  
I SEE  
IT.

GOOD

BE  
QUIET,  
"EXTRA".

WAIT,  
CIRNO-  
CHAN,  
I DON'T  
THINK  
YOU  
SHOULD  
...



DON!



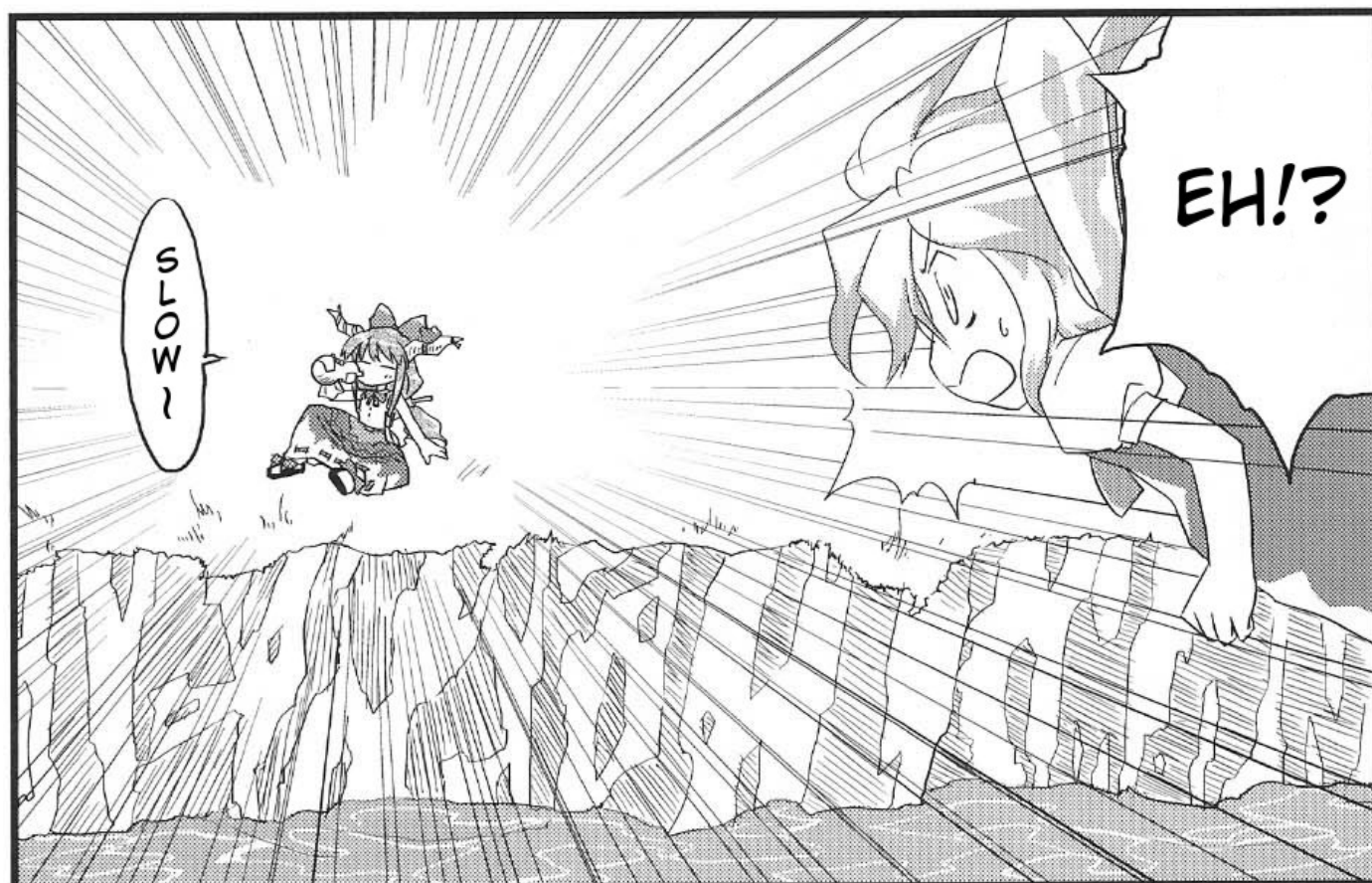
HUH?

SHE'S NOT FOLLOWING AT ALL!

AHAHA!

THE GOAL IS ALMOST THERE.

VICTORY IS MI...



EH!?

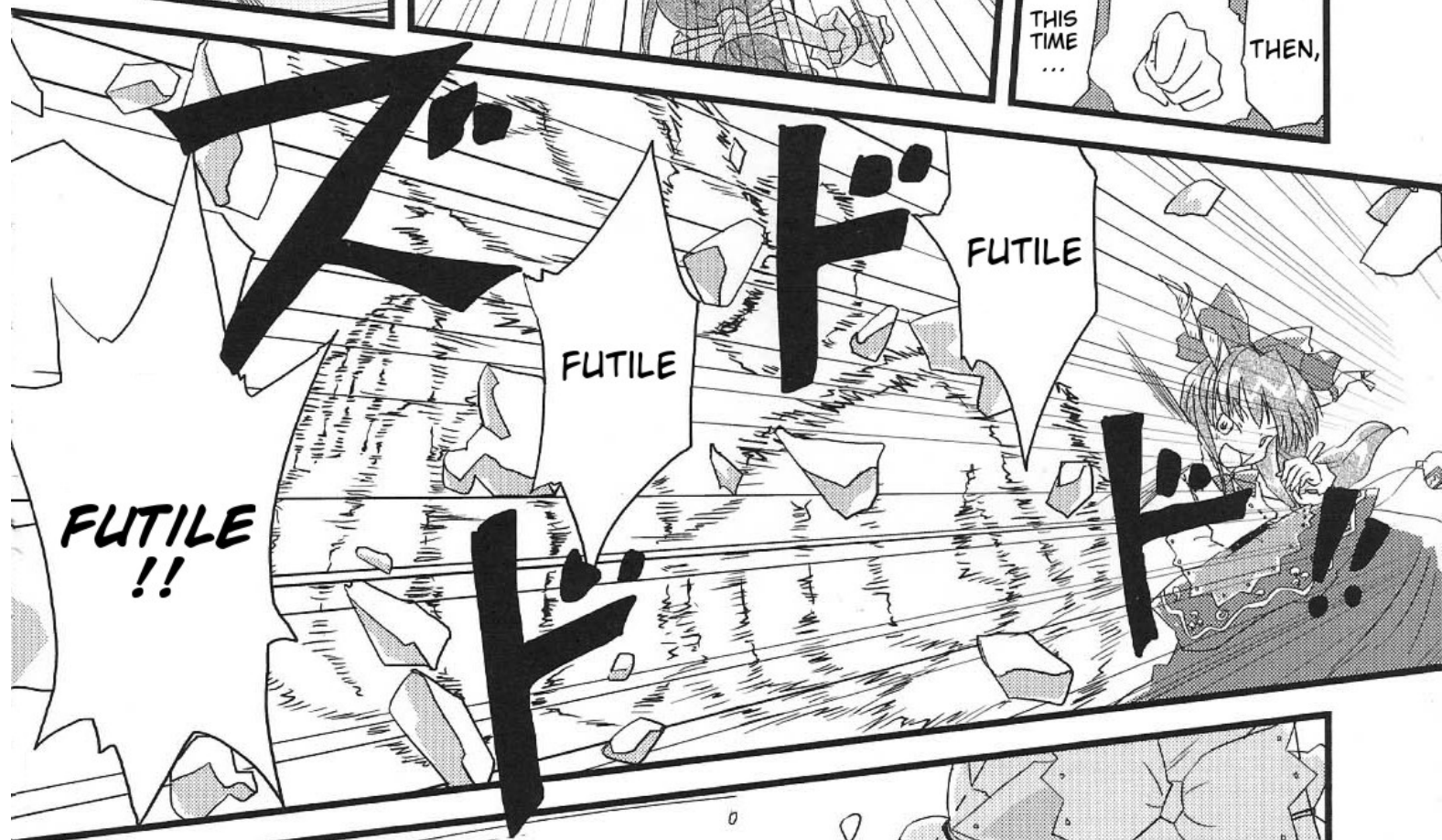
SLOW!



GOING FOR A STROLL?

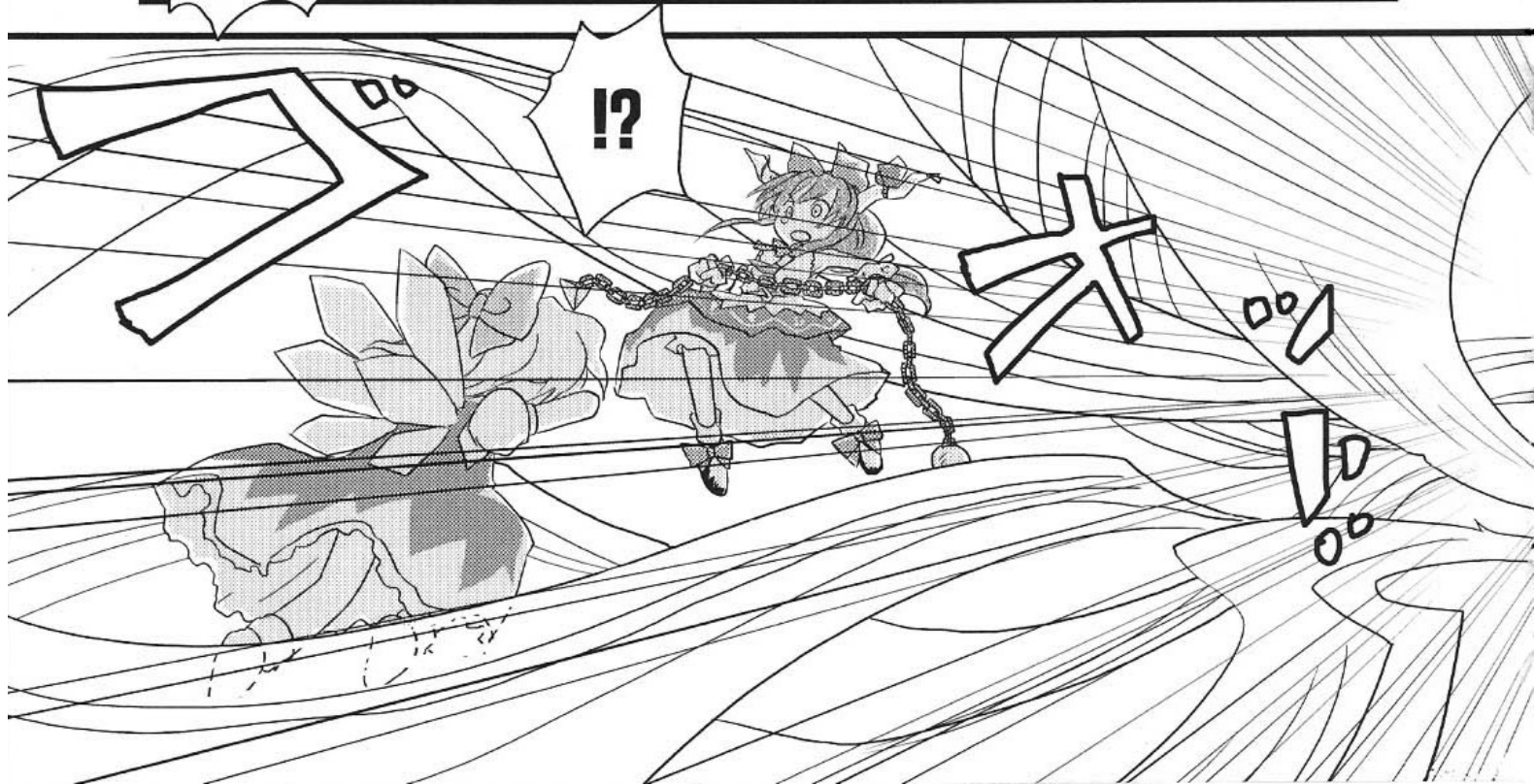
THE HECK YOU WERE DOING?







I'M GONNA CARRY YOU OFF.







ほかん

3



チャート  
フィル



...



TURN

WELL,  
THAT'S  
FINE.  
I'LL  
STOP.



EEH?

CARRYING  
A FAIRY  
OFF IS  
POINTLESS  
ANYWAY.

SEE YA!



HMM  
...

THANK  
YOU.



...SORRY

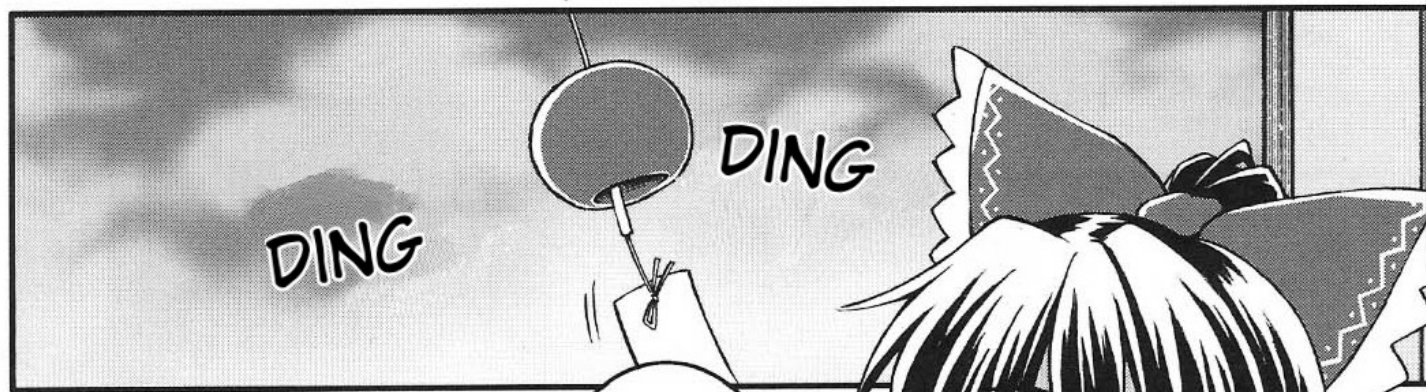


SPLASH





SFX: SEARCHING





.....  
HOW LONG  
HAVE YOU  
BEEN  
THERE  
YUKARI?

AH,  
GREE-  
TINGS.

THAT'S  
DEFINETELY  
WHAT  
YOU'D CALL  
A WINDER.

A WIND  
CHIME  
FEELS THE  
MOVEMENT  
OF THE  
WIND.

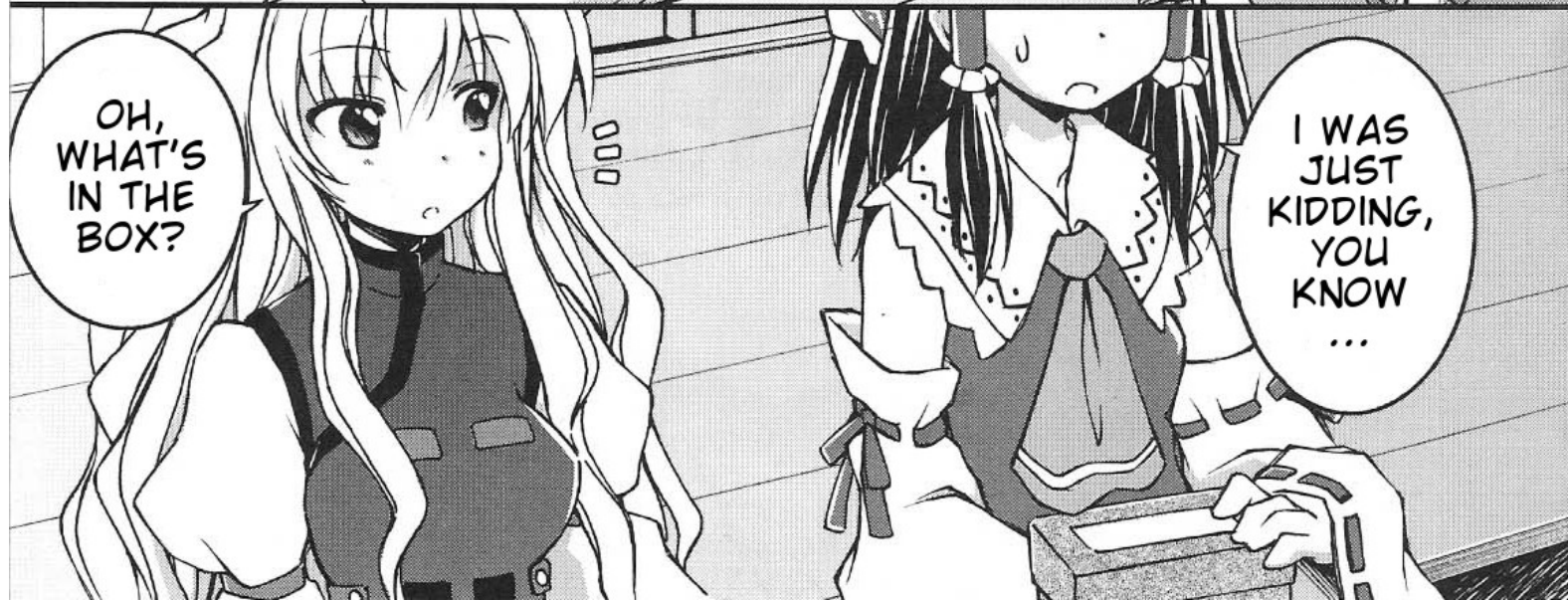
DING  
DING



GEEZ.

THEY SAY WIND  
CHIMES ARE  
SUPPOSED TO  
WARD AGAINST  
SPIRITS, BUT IF  
THEY JUST FLOCK  
IN WHEN I PUT  
THEM OUT,  
I GUESS NOT.

HM, IT  
APPEARS  
YOU ARE  
RIGHT.



OH,  
WHAT'S  
IN THE  
BOX?

I WAS  
JUST  
KIDDING,  
YOU  
KNOW  
...





SEE?

OPEN

OH,  
A GLASS  
CHIME.



OH,  
THIS?

THIS  
IS  
...

DING DING

IT  
REALLY  
BRINGS  
BACK A  
NOSTALGIC  
FEELING.

I CAME  
ACROSS IT  
WHILE I WAS  
LOOKING FOR  
THE WIND  
CHIME  
...



YES.  
I REALLY  
LIKE  
IT'S  
SOUND  
...

THEY GO  
WELL WITH  
WIND  
CHIMES,  
DON'T YOU  
THINK?

A GLASS  
CHIME'S  
SOUND  
HAS GOOD  
USE ONCE  
A YEAR.

BUT IT  
ALWAYS  
SEEMED LIKE IT  
WOULD BREAK IF  
YOU BLEW IT TOO  
HARD. I THOUGHT  
IT WAS AMAZING  
HOW IT COULD  
BANISH EVIL  
SPIRITS WHEN  
I WAS LITTLE  
...

MY,  
HAVEN'T  
YOU ALWAYS  
BEEN SUCH  
A HARD  
WORKER.

QUIET  
YOU  
...



DING DING

SAUU  
SAUU

MIN  
MIN

GUESS  
I'LL  
HAVE  
TO  
...

KANAKANA

WHY  
DON'T  
YOU LET  
ME HEAR  
THAT  
CHIME  
THEN?

WELL  
WELL  
...

TSUUU

SUU

KANAKANA

PEN

PO-

PEN

PO-

PEN

PO-



AND  
THE  
SOUND  
OF THE  
CICADAS  
...

AND  
THE  
SOUND  
OF THE  
GLASS  
CHIME  
...

IT'S  
LIKE THE  
SOUND OF  
THE WIND  
CHIME  
...

...  
WHENEVER  
I DO  
THIS  
...

AND  
THE  
SOUND  
OF THE  
WIND  
BLOWING  
...

IT'S  
LIKE THEY  
ALL CAME  
TOGETHER  
LIKE AN  
ORCHESTRA  
PLAYING  
A SONG  
...



SUU

...

HEY  
YUKARI  
...



THAT  
MAY  
BE.

EVERYTHING,  
EVEN THE  
SOUND OF  
THIS CHIME,  
TURNS INTO  
AN ILLUSION  
EVENTUALLY,  
RIGHT  
...?

HEY  
YUKARI  
...



SUU

IN  
ANY  
CASE  
...



## Introduction to “Touhou” Game Design



To accompany this spin-off, along with the upcoming release of Phantasmagoria of Flower View, the kannushi of fantasy, ZUN, will reveal the inner workings of his mind. The goal of this interview was to have ZUN talk about his gaming history and his stance on game systems, as well as to express the concept behind his new game Phantasmagoria of Flower View. The power of the kannushi's sermon shall now stimulate your imagination to its core...

### The Philosophy of Establishing the Foundation for a Game World

**Interviewer:** Today, we will be asking ZUN about the philosophy at the heart of his games. First, may I ask when the first



time you played a game was?

**ZUN:** It was when I was in kindergarten. My parents placed a table arcade machine in their cafe to lighten up the atmosphere. That kindled my interest in games, and during elementary school, the Famicom came out and we bought one right away. When I got a new game, I'd play them with my friends inside and out. But normally I would go outside and catch bugs and stuff, too. I was a normal countryside kid, after all.

**Interviewer:** What games from back then left an impression on you?

**ZUN:** Super Mario Bros. left the biggest impression on me. Before then, games didn't scroll, and there were still many games with black backgrounds. But in Super Mario Bros., if you went underground, there was an underground world. If you went above the clouds, there was a world up there, too. All the different places you could go in itself surprised me, and the fact that the music also changed with the setting was impressive.

The next impact was from... Street Fighter 2. It was almost like a second revolution. Everyone would play the game, so it was a way to fight without physically hurting each other. The play control was incredible, too. I would put in up to 10,000 yen in a day sometimes. That made my allowance disappear in a flash. (laugh)

**Interviewer:** In both of these games, what points about the game's system or quality were important?

**ZUN:** Those games were revolutionary because they had things like different systems from games before them, creating new atmospheres within themselves. Later, people would say stuff like "that game engine was revolutionary" or "the characters had a lot of appeal", but at the time, no one really thought about the individual aspects because they were too busy playing. Games don't become hits because of those kinds of reasons. The systems in those games weren't just the pinnacle of all the games made up to that point, there was also a decisive difference. If I had to put it into words, I would say they "created a new world". Though it's a little different from the usual meaning, let's just go with that.

Now to speak about my thoughts on game design, about establishing the foundation for a world. I try to design my games to exist in their own world. At the base of everything is the game world, and I structure the game's genre and system upon that, from which the pictures and music flow. One can feel this establishment as they play the game, so I believe. That's

why the game's quality as it is called is just one part of the game, so if you get too obsessed about that, I'm afraid it will lose all meaning as a video game.

A lot of people say "the true nature of a game is it's quality, and quality and setting are different things", however, I don't think that they are exclusive concepts, and that they should be thought of as one. If you look at Xevious or Space Invaders, it is obvious that even at that time, games weren't mere collections of symbols. Even the very first video game was only about bouncing a ball back and forth, but even though it was a brand-new way to play it, it was still called Pong. So, the way I see it, this was a "world" that just happened to have nothing but ping-pong.

However, even with that theory, if it's not interesting, it probably can't be considered a success. On the other hand, only focusing on the basics isn't interesting either, so it is important to be able to connect both aspects to make a fun game. Based on experience, being able to fine-tune a game's quality or system is unmistakably engaging, but I think that games without that extra coat of paint are mistaken as "genuine". Before it can be played as a game, I think it is very important for it to have its own setting.

**Interviewer:** Now, when you say "creating a world", that comes with very broad implications, so I imagine there will be many different approaches to establishing a world.

**ZUN:** Please think of the quality of a setting and how well it is established as different things. For example, take sci-fi worlds or retro worlds. How well they are liked relates to the quality of how the setting is established. On the other side, how well the music and the backgrounds match the setting, how the game controls feel, even up to entering a name for a high score, those are aspects relating to the quality of a certain setting.

The way I see it, however you decide to establish a world, you need to decide it on based on the design of the created world. During the establishment of a game, particularly when making characters for the so-called world creation, people make the mistake of saying "This won't have any effect on the game", but even among these same people there are those who say "Because this character is in the game, I hate it." This claim is proof enough that even characters can influence a game. If it truly didn't matter, then the game would be playable no matter what the setting is. This means that the "hate" that is felt is proportional to how much influence the aspect has on

the game. Conversely, I admit that there are bad games with well-designed worlds.

In Battle Garegga<sup>41</sup>, there was a very charismatic last boss called Black Heart. That is a good example of how a game's design can really make a character appealing. Before his boss appearance, you would see a bunch of smaller Black Hearts come out and do stuff. That was very important.



**Interviewer:** Is creating a world the same as giving meaning to every individual element in the game?

**ZUN:** For that, I'd like to talk about CAVE, who have always done a great job in creating their worlds. In Progear<sup>42</sup>, the look of the game changes as time passes from morning to evening, then to night, and when you start the second loop, it's morning again. A simple thing like the flow of time gives a real feeling of

<sup>41</sup>1996. Released by Eighting. Mechanic brothers challenge a federation in this vertically-scrolling shmup. The player controls a fighter plane.

<sup>42</sup>2001. Released by Capcom. Young children fight tyranny in propeller-driven planes in this horizontally-scrolling shmup.

“progression”. There is a similar effect in *Guwange*<sup>43</sup>, where it goes from the white color scheme in the town, to the darkness of Hell at the end. The stages flow smoothly, and in addition, it starts out in summer, and goes to fall, winter, and spring. The look of the game’s stages have meaning. The player gets absorbed into the world of these kinds of games.

In *Darius Gaiden*<sup>44</sup> too, even though it seems like the most attention was given to its quality, I think the reason for its popularity was the world inside it. The fact is, I was influenced by *Darius Gaiden* when I made the *Touhou* games.

**Interviewer:** Can you give any specific examples of this influence?

**ZUN:** In *Darius Gaiden*, there would be boss battles as long as 2/3rds of the stage, and the bosses would have personalities. Another characteristic is that the game would be organized solely to keep things exciting during the middle. Until then, when talking about games, people would only say things like “stage 3 was fun, stage 4 was...”, but in *Darius Gaiden*, there was Octopus and Great Thing, and people could call bosses by name when they talked about the game. It meant that these game symbols were becoming something else. This “change” of turning symbols into characters made its way into *Touhou*, too. So, the first point of influence is making the games heavily favor boss battles, the second is the “Spell Card” system that tied characters to specific attack patterns, and the third is the result of making bosses no more than mere game symbols obsolete.

**Interviewer:** So when creating a unique world for a game, it’s fundamentally impossible to create something like *Touhou* with more than one person?

**ZUN:** That’s my opinion. In games where there are many people working on it, even in a best-case scenario, only a few people are working on the game design. As the game nears completion, they have to pull double duty, working on other tasks in addition to design. It’s definitely the hardest phase of making a game. For my latest game, *Phantasmagoria of Flower View*, while I had to ask a few people for help, I was the only one working on it, so it was still largely a solo effort. I think it was best for the game.

For *Phantasmagoria of Flower View*, the theme I made was

<sup>43</sup>1999. Released by CAVE. Set at the end of the Muromachi period, a trio of shikigami users face a trial in this vertically-scrolling shmup.

<sup>44</sup>1994. Released by Taito. A horizontally-scrolling shmup, the side story to the original game released by the same company in 1986. Famous for its bosses based around an aquatic creature motif.



“enjoyable while playing and after playing”. Usually, you may think “playing is fun”, and it’s exciting to do so, but if playing is all there is, then it’s unexpectedly not fun. Music that is enjoyable, an enjoyable world, setting, and characters, and the entire atmosphere. If everything doesn’t have that feel-good quality, then it feels bad. To sum it up, if you only focus how it feels to play the game, you won’t see anything else.

### **The Attitude of Doujin Developers Not Focusing on Sales and Continuing to Make Games They Like**

**ZUN:** I would like to say that even if a game doesn’t sell very well, it can still be a good game. Making a game sell is a different story, though.

**Interviewer:** You think that doujin developers are not trying to make their games sell?

**ZUN:** There’s no effort whatsoever. They believe that since they’re small outfits, there’s no obligation to do so. They’ll go on making their own thing, never accepting or even seeking criticism of any kind. As an extension, they won’t even care about publicizing their games. No advertising or anything to draw attention to new releases, not even on their own website.

**Interviewer:** So do those developers purposefully isolate themselves?

**ZUN:** There are instances where they are just so busy it’s hard for them to find time to handle PR, but otherwise, I would say yes. However, while it’s natural to get inspiration from other works, if you get too caught in being worried what other people will think of your game, that’s going to do nothing but hurt your productivity. Of course, I think that in the case of businesses, not caring about a game’s reception is a real issue. They should be proactive in getting opinions through people who fill out surveys, fan sites, and other sources.

**Interviewer:** But in the case of doujin developers, it’s better not to do that?

**ZUN:** Doujin developers are basically mini-businesses, so they should still act like businesses, and always be looking ahead. I think that consumers demand too much from doujin creators, things that are not doujin-like. When you compare the differences between businesses and doujin developers, too many requests and criticisms can wear down on the creator, so the market atrophies as a result. However, in the case of Touhou, its scope is still widening, and there are as many people

playing it as there are playing commercial games, so it's gotten to the point where I can't ignore the fans even if I try. That's why those the production side should not be so aloof. That's my general mindset, although I get the feeling I've been a bit cold towards my fans recently. (laugh)

**Interviewer:** By the way, what programs do you use in the development of the Touhou games?

**ZUN:** I don't use the software or programs that most doujin developers generally use when I make my games. On my computer, I use my own version of DOS-V, and my development environment is a compiler, Visual Studio. For pictures, it's generally Photoshop, and for music I use Cubase SX, but not Prouse. It was a lot harder for doujin developers to make games 10 years ago. No matter what you made, it took a lot of blood, sweat, and effort. I don't like my expression when I exert a lot of effort so I don't do it very often. (laugh)

**Interviewer:** Do you have any advice for people who want to make games?

**ZUN:** I think that people who want to work for a game company and those who want to make games should receive separate advice. First, to those who want to work for a game company, the ratio of people who want to work for a company versus the number who are actually hired is incredibly large, so to stand out, it's important to hone and improve your unique qualities. I presented Touhou to demonstrate mine, but that was because I had to put a considerable amount of effort into it.

Also, there are a lot of people who want to work for a game company who go to college or technical school, but because they feel the gap between what they want to do and the regular office work they actually do, almost all of them quit. That may be because they didn't want to make games, just work for a game company. To those who want to make games, you might want to exclusively study that field, but I recommend you go to college and get a regular education. If you can adapt to your surroundings then, you can improve yourself as a person.

#### **Pursuing the Feel-Good Quality for Phantasmagoria of Flower View**

**Interviewer:** The theme for Phantasmagoria of Flower View seems to be very cheerful, being about flowers (laugh). How would you describe it?

**ZUN:** It's something I've always wanted to make. Phantasmagoria of Flower View is a game I made with the notion

of something that you can play casually and still have fun. I would like to think that even those who didn't like the moderately serious settings of the previous games still enjoyed them, but on the other hand, I realize you can't please everyone. The response to the trial version has been positive, though, so I'm actually a little confused. (laugh)

**Interviewer:** So the music is enjoyable as well?

**ZUN:** While it's not like the music hasn't been suited for its stages up to now, there were considerable limits. But this time, there is nothing resembling progression within a stage and the only thing that flows is the background. It felt good and because of that reason, I thought I could compose some really beautiful songs. As a song repeats during a game, it gets stuck in your head. By doing away with any forced mid-stage dialog, I didn't have to think about arranging the music around them.

**Interviewer:** How does the story feel?

**ZUN:** There are a few tense, interesting parts to it, but it's still a little long so I'm presently fine-tuning it (laugh). This time, each character will have their own ending, so with repeated playthroughs, you can learn all kinds of things about the characters as well as their relationships. If you play through it once, you won't get the whole picture, just as the characters themselves don't fully understand the events that unfold by the end, but that's just another Touhou-like thing about the game.

**Interviewer:** A versus shmup was unexpected. What was your intention?

**ZUN:** While I wasn't planning on making a game this year, it's Touhou's 10th anniversary so I thought really, really hard about it. A lot of people are playing the Touhou games now, so I wanted to do something that would get everyone excited... so I intended for this to be a fan-service game and make it like Twinkle Star Sprites.

Maybe the people who play Touhou haven't played Twinkle Star<sup>45</sup>, maybe they have. I don't think I'm trying to "compete" with it though. For example, people can only eat so much, so restaurants have to compete with each other by creating their own unique aspects. However, the same isn't true in the case of games. Instead, the thought process is that by creating something good, regardless of source, then everyone who is interested in those kinds of games will also be drawn in. Among

<sup>45</sup>1995. Released by ADK. A very unusual versus-style shmup. On July 28th, 2005, SNK Playmore released a remake called Twinkle Star Sprites ~ La Petite Princesse~ for the PlayStation 2.

shmups, this doesn't necessarily steal a share of the customers, and instead, it's called respect. This kind of synergy increases the whole shmup scene by another level. That's what I'm aiming for.



**Interviewer:** Finally, I'd like to ask about where you place this book, *Bohemian Archive in Japanese Red*.

**ZUN:** This book and the game, *Shoot the Bullet* have a mutual influence on each other, and I wanted to make something that would give people who already know about Touhou even greater enjoyment. That's why the story of this book is a bunch of interesting news articles about all kinds of things. While I don't think there are **that** many people who play the games, I wanted to give anyone familiar with the series and in-depth, up-close look at it. So I guess I didn't make this book for newbies, but for people who have had at least some experience with it. But if by accident someone new does read this book... they might be surprised. (laugh)









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